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Administrative Handbook of the Ambala Dt

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AN

ADMINISTRATIVE HAND-BOOK

OF THE

UMBALLA DISTRICT.

BY

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Deputy Commissioner.

1898.

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PREFACE.

In most of the chapters in this hand-book information has been collected concerning various important affairs peculiar to the district, so as to show an officer to what stage correspondence on them or discussion of them has reached. Perusal of what has been written may save an officer's time in examining old files.

Eleven out of the some forty chapters deal with matters mainly concerning the Sikh jágírdárs alone. The Umballa jágírdárs are a body of men of a status unique in the Province, and many of their affairs present questions so perplexing to deal with that much could be written which would be useful to an officer new to the district.

Other articles, such as those on Religious Celebrations, Excise, Suspensions of Revenue, Exports and Imports, Local Funds, &c., deal with administrative questions which more than four years' charge of the district has made the writer more or less acquainted with. The hand-book is presented with apologies for any repetitions and defects in composition. The articles have been written at odd times in the midst of district work. If the book is of any use to officers holding charge, the aim of it will be accomplished. It is being printed at the Government Press, but care has been taken, whenever there is official authority for any opinions expressed or conclusions arrived at, to quote such authority.

1st *June* 1898. CLEM. PARSONS.

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AN ADMINISTRATIVE HAND-BOOK

OF THE

UMBALLA DISTRICT.

CHAPTER I.

General.

When the Thánesar district was broken up in 1862 and the Pípli tahsíl was added to Umballa, Umballa became, with the exception of two, the most populous district in the Province, and consisted of six tahsíls. Owing to the special and heavy work entailed in connection with jágírdárs and numerous wards of court in addition to much miscellaneous work other than of a normal kind, the charge of the district became too heavy a one for most officers to successfully deal with.

In 1881 an outgoing Deputy Commissioner (Mr. Tolbort) wrote in advice to his successor: "The amount of work forced on the Deputy Commissioner of Umballa by other offices is so heavy and the interruptions he experiences are so incessant that I would strongly advise my successor never to start any difficult work beyond the ordinary routine."

In 1893 Mr. Gladstone, on handing over charge, wrote: "The charge of Umballa is a tolerably hopeless one. * * * Take the history of Umballa since 1884. I am not aware of one single Deputy Commissioner who has satisfied the Government." These remarks were coupled with a prophesy that any officer in charge would "get into hot water."

Opinions of this kind, especially when given by an officer of abnormal energy, caused a correspondence which led to the elision of the Pípli tahsíl on the 15th October 1897, a transfer effected for the express purpose of lightening the work of the district.

Four hundred odd villages lying in an area of 559 square miles with a population of 177,442 thus left the district; the population of the district as remodelled being left at about 856,000 instead of 1,033,400 as the census of 1891 had shown it.

The transfer of this tahsíl was a great relief, including as the tahsíl did the rather troublesome town and municipality of Shahabad and the important religious centre of Thánesar.

The district is now fairly easily got over in the camping season, but there are special features in the work of it which will always prevent it being a light charge.

The staff of the district at the time of the transfer consisted of eight officers, and, owing to the Cantonment Magistrate being then relieved of some criminal and civil case work by a Sadar Officer, the staff was left unchanged after the transfer.

In the correspondence concerning the transfer of the Pípli tahsíl will be found much discussion on the question of the number of officers needed in the district.

The staff consists of—

1. Deputy Commissioner.
2. Sub-divisional Officer.
3. District Judge.
4. Additional District Judge.
5. The Revenue Assistant.
6. An Extra Assistant Commissioner (Treasury Officer).
7. An Extra Assistant Commissioner.
8. (Usually) An Assistant Commissioner under training.

The Sub-divisional Officer disposes of all revenue and criminal work within the sub-division. The District Judge and Additional Judge are expected by the Chief Court to be reserved for civil work almost entirely. Neither the Revenue Assistant nor the Treasury Officer (who is in charge of probably the heaviest treasury in the Province next to Ráwalpindi) can be saddled with much criminal work. There therefore remains one Extra Assistant Commissioner to dispose of the magisterial work of the three head-quarters tahsíls (as the Assistant Commissioner generally attached never has 1st class powers as a Magistrate). This work he can dispose of however, as figures taken for eight months showed that the three tahsíls produced the following average number of 1st class *chaláns* per mensem : Umballa 13, Jagádhri 7, Naráingarh 4. The number of *chaláns* sent up depends much on the idiosyncrasies of thánadárs, but the above figures show the average of a period.

As to the interruptions to work which Mr. Tolbort complained of, they are largely due to Umballa's geographical position with regard to Simla. It is not very safe for the Deputy Commissioner to map out a cold weather tour without regard to the departure from Simla of the Supreme and Local Governments or until the first tours of the Financial Commissioner or Commissioner are announced. His presence at head-quarters at the time of the

Simla exodus is, owing to the position of the district, very naturally likely to be required; and sometimes it happens that his tours have to be amended or restricted very much indeed.

Considerable detriment to work in Umballa is caused by the long distances between public offices. The need of mounted messengers is continually felt. Until 1892 the Deputy Commissioner had at his disposal a contingent of Patiála sowárs first supplied about 1856. When the Patiála State organised its body of Imperial Service troops this contingent was withdrawn. The then Deputy Commissioner (Mr. Gladstone) stipulated for a body of ten horse sowárs and three camel sowárs in lieu of the contingent. Correspondence resulted in the establishment of police camel sowárs being increased from four to seven, the extra three being put at the Deputy Commissioner's disposal for despatch purposes. The arrangement is defective, the sowárs being practically under two masters.

Despatch work between city and cantonments is on occasions heavy. Moreover the *kacheri*, tahsíl, and Deputy Commissioner's residence are all far apart. Subsidiary sowárs lent from one or other of the wards' estates are often acceptable, unless the Deputy Commissioner utilises his own stable.

The treasury is distant some five or more miles from different Military Offices in cantonments. Delays in business lead to inconvenience and complaints. There is a strong local feeling in favour of a sub-treasury being established in cantonments.

CHAPTER II.

Maps.

The following maps which are available in the office are mentioned as being most useful :—

(1). District Map (Trigonometrical Survey), 4 miles to the inch.

(2). District Map (Punjab Survey), 1 mile to the inch.

(3). Military Camp and Route Map of Sirhind district.

(4). Map of Cantonments and City, 6 inches to the mile.

(5). Plans of Umballa City and Environs.

(6). Maps of the Hill Border, 4 and 2 inches to the mile.

(7). Map of the Simla district showing routes from Umballa.

(8). Map of Kalesar Forest, 4 inches to the mile.

(9). A locally prepared map of the district, 2 miles to the inch.

(10). Gladstone's Thieves' Route Map of the Cis-Sutlej tract.

No. 1 map is that sheet of the Great Trigonometrical Survey of India published in 1861 which contains Umballa and adjoining territory. It is of use as a hand map for speedy reference, but is not of much use as a revenue map; the villages in all Sub-Himalayan belts of country being too close together to be well depicted in a map of small scale.

The map *par excellence* for a Revenue Officer is No. 2. This fine map was in process of completion when the settlement occurred, and editions for 1888, 1889 and subsequent years are available. These maps were in collaboration with the Settlement Officer made to show all village boundaries, *sehaddás* and *abádís*. They show all water spills very carefully; and are in every way invaluable to a Revenue Officer.

The map of the district cut up into 12 sheets bound in book form can be carried in a leather case.

For boundary disputes, questions of damage by hill-torrents, alluvion and diluvion, canal flooding, &c., this map is most useful. It will often illustrate what the vernacular report of a Tahsíldár, coupled with a clumsy sketch by a patwári, has failed to do. Tracings or enlargements from this map are sufficient to illustrate reports to the Revenue Authorities concerning villages, canals, streams, boundaries, &c. The map, however, stops short at the first fringe of the hills, so that the actual hill border is rarely depicted.

The preliminary editions of this map do not show native territory, but the later ones do. It is important to get these latter, as in criminal and excise work a map of adjoining Patiála territory is very useful.

The maps mentioned as No. 6 at the head of this chapter deal with the hill tracts of Biláspur, Nálagarh, Náhan, &c. They are on large scales, which vary. It is rather hard to arrange a set, nor is a set easily portable. But these maps are not constantly required, and it is sufficient to keep a complete set in the English Office. The *Punjab Gazette* shows all sheets obtainable.

No. 3 map is often required in connection with encamping-grounds and questions asked concerning routes and stages, &c. Camping-grounds concerning which references are made to a Deputy Commissioner are in the Cis-Sutlej tract, as often situated outside British territory as not. The map has on its reverse tables of distances.

Map No. 4 is a fine large map prepared in about 1860. It should be slung up in every Deputy Commissioner's Office. In tracing the roads which the District Board has to maintain, the communications between city and cantonments; the city environs; the civil lines; the cantonment boundary; the lie of the cantonment roads and streets; the grass farms; and in dealing with the boundary disputes which occasionally crop up between cantonments and the villages around, this map is indispensable. Being on a very large scale it shows details of every kind and also extremely clearly.

The maps listed as No. 5 are ground plans of the city and environs. They were prepared in the local Public Works Department Office. They serve to illustrate reports on city questions, and a sufficient number of copies should always be kept in office. The Survey Office at Calcutta will print copies for a small charge. These plans also show the lie of the water-works mains.

The map of the Kalesar Forest is an interesting speciality for those interested in timber questions or forest shooting.

The map of the Simla district shows the hill routes; a knowledge of which is required in some departments of work.

As to map No. 9, the most convenient map of the district, if the villages were not so closely packed, and if the water spills were not so abundant, would no doubt be one on a scale of 2 miles to the inch. There is, therefore, much in favour of this map, though the one inch to a mile map is the best for a Revenue Officer. This smaller scale map, however, is available (in English and Vernacular) in the Local Funds Office, and in illustrating Famine Relief Circles in 1896-97 this was the map used. It is also

the most convenient map on which to show *zails*, patwárís' and kánúngos' circles, and tahsíl and thána boundaries, if need be.

Map No. 10 deserves notice. It was elaborated by Mr. Gladstone in consultation with police experts. The map aims at showing all thieving villages in the tract of the cattle-lifters; and thus embraces the Karnál *Nardak*, parts of Hissár; and in fact very much of the Cis-Sutlej territory. It shows the villages at which "*thangdars*" reside, and the routes along which stolen cattle are passed on from village to village and from district into district through the hands of the Ranghar syndicates and confederacies.

A copy is hung up in most thánás in the district, and there are copies at head-quarters, but owing to its great size it takes up a deal of room.

CHAPTER III.

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE.

The following is a chronological table of events affecting the district from various points of view. The dates of various important lapses and escheats are interesting as showing how the existing revenue district of Umballa gradually grew up. The table commences from the date (1763) of the Sikh conquest of the Cis-Sutlej tract, which may be considered the starting point of the modern history of Umballa :—

Chronological Table.

1763.—Sikh conquest of the Cis-Sutlej tract.

1763—1806.—Formation of, and petty warfare between, the Cis-Sutlej Sikh Chiefdoms and States.

Sikh rule established by major and minor Sikh Chiefs throughout the Umballa tract [only the Mír of Kotaha, the Baidwán Jat Sardárs of Sohána and Mánakmázra (Kharar), the Rájpút Sardárs of Rámgarh and Ráípur (Naráingarh) and the Pathán Chiefs of Kotla Nahang and Khizrabad holding their own against the invaders].

1806—1808.—Ranjít Singh makes raids of invasion into the Cis-Sutlej tract.

1808.—Deputation invoking British assistance sent to Delhi by the Cis-Sutlej Chiefs—Patiála, Jínd and Kaithal.

1809, 25*th April*.—Ranjít Singh signed the treaty of Amritsar with the British, binding himself not to encroach across the Sutlej.

1809, *May*.—Ochterlony's proclamation of a Protectorate in the Cis-Sutlej tract.

1811.—Supplementary proclamation repressing all internal warfare and maintaining the *status quo* of 1809.

1809—1845.—Powers and privileges of all Chiefdoms maintained and self-government left absolute, but settlements introduced into lapsed tracts.

1814—15.—Gurkha Campaign affecting Náhan, Nálagarh and the Siwálik region.

1816.—The Morni tract conferred upon Mír Jáfir Khan, of Kotaha, for services in Gurkha War.

1819.—Biláspur tract (16 villages) lapsed on death of Dya Kaur, widow of Sher Singh, Lodhpindián.

1820.—Delhi Branch of Firoz Shah's Canal (Western Jumna Canal) re-opened.

1823.—On death of Mai Dya Kaur, widow of Sardár Gurbakhsh Singh, the Umballa Chiefdom (36 villages) lapsed.

1825.—Hissár Branch of Firoz Shah's Canal (Western Jumna Canal) re-opened.

1829.—The Jagádhri estate (36 villages) lapsed on death of Dya Kaur, widow of Bhagwán Singh, nephew of Rái Singh, who had rebuilt Jagádhri town (destroyed by Nádir Shah) in 1783.

1831.—Meeting between Lord William Bentinck and Ranjít Singh at Rúpar.

1832.—Two-fifths of the State of the Rája of Thánesar lapsed.

1833.—Escheat of Mobárikpur estate.

First masonry dam to Western Jumna Canal established.

1835.—Morinda pargana (44 villages) escheated from Jínd.

1843.—Kaithal estate lapsed, part of it (46 villages) creating the present Umballa Dhakar circle round Sulhar.

Summary settlements of lapsed tracts undertaken.

Present cantonments laid out by sequestration of 10 villages and parts of 17 others.

1844.—Goláb Singh of Búriya died. Jiwan Singh (eventually a C.I.E.) succeeded. The *jágir* brought under Court of Wards.

1845.—1st Sikh War. British Campaign against Trans-Sutlej Chiefs. Attitude of many Cis-Sutlej Chiefs unsatisfactory and little assistance rendered though required by treaty.

1846.—Resolutions of the Governor-General reducing privileges of Cis-Sutlej States excepting Pati-

ála, Jínd, Nábha, Farídkot, Máler Kotla, Kalsia, Raikot, Búriya and Mamdot.

In other States local police jurisdiction abolished. Transit and customs duties abolished.

Commutation required in lieu of men at arms and personal service.

Confiscations in the case of the more serious offenders in 1845.

The estate (117 villages) of Rája Ajít Singh, of Ládwa, confiscated.

One hundred and six villages in Rúpar and Kharar confiscated from the Rúpar Chief, Bhúp Singh: 72 villages (Chamkor, Kuráli, &c.), from the Sodhís of Anandpur: and 89 in Naráingarh from the Rája of Kapurthala.

Political agency of Umballa changed into a "Commissionership of Cis-Sutlej States."

1847.—Summary settlements in lapsed tracts undertaken.

Sardár Bhúp Singh, of Rúpar, grandson of the conqueror Hari Singh, after confiscation of his estates was banished to Saháranpur. His fort in Rúpar was subsequently converted into the present tahsíl.

1848.—2nd Sikh War.

1849, 29*th March*.—Proclamation of annexation of the Punjab.

1849, *June*.—All Cis-Sutlej Chiefs, but those excepted in 1845, divested of sovereign powers and criminal, civil and fiscal jurisdiction.

Tract placed under superintendence of Board of Administration at Lahore.

Umballa made head-quarters of a district and a division.

A building called the *báradari* in the Bádsháhi Bágh improvised as a District Office.

Commissioner appointed sole referee between Chiefs.

1849-52.—Regular settlement of Central Umballa by Mr. Wynyard [completed in Northern Umballa by Mr. Melvill (1855) and in Thánesar tract by Captain Larkins (1856)].

1850.—Remaining three-fifths of the Thánesar jágír (late State) lapsed, giving the Adhoa pargana to the growing district.

1851.—The Dyálgarh estate which was part of the original acquisitions of Rái Singh, of Búriya, lapsed on death of Mai Sukhan, widow of Bhagwán Singh, nephew of Rái Singh.

1852.—Mr. Wynyard completed his work of settlement.

1852.—The *kacheri* building (present record room block) built (estimate Rs. 16,000) in the Bádsháhi Bágh. The *báradari* building till then used as a *kacheri* allotted for the Treasury Offices, &c. (as at present).

1855.—First census of the Punjab.

1857.—Splendid services rendered by the protected States—Patiála, Jínd and others.

Force of 460 foot and 260 horse raised from the commutation tenure jágírdárs instead of the cash commutation.

Men furnished by Rao Rahím Bakhsh of Panjlása, and the Sarkardahs of Sádhaura to guard Sahéranpur road.

The Bela jágír lapsed for want of lineal issue, and reverted to Manoli by right of collateral succession.

1860-61.—Famine. Wheat sold at 8 sérs. Rs. 77,000 of revenue suspended in Umballa, Jagádhri and Naráingarh. Ten villages in the Kotaha iláka pressed by famine sold proprietary rights to the Mír of Kotaha.

Death of Rája Gopál Singh of Manimájra. He received the title of Rája after the Gurkha War.

Sárdar Jiwan Singh (now C.S.I.) of Shahzádpur born.

1862.—Thánesar district broken up and Pípli tahsíl added to Umballa.

Revised settlement of Pípli by Captain Davies sanctioned.

Umballa town constituted a municipality.

1864.—A long established manufactory of spurious gold coins discovered at Jagádhri.

Mír Akbar Ali Khan of Kotaha banished the district, and his estates attached.

1865.—Jagádhri town constituted a municipality.

1866.—Pehowa pargana transferred from Karnál to tahsíl Pípli, Umballa.

The Siálba jágír (63 villages) in Kharar lapsed, but the Miánpur zail-jágír of it was continued.

1868.—Scarcity and crop failure.

Rs. 45,509 revenue suspended.

1868, 10*th January*.—Census of the Province, excluding Native States.

Wards' School established in civil lines.

Jagádhri Plantation (Reserve) commenced.

Rúpar and Sádhaura constituted municipalities.

1869.—The Section of Railway from Meerut to Umballa opened (January).

The Section of Railway from Umballa to Ludhiána opened (October).

Municipal Act extended to Búriya (Punjab Government Notification No. 1752, dated 7th June).

1870.—Sutlej railway bridge completed, joining up through communication from Lahore and Mooltan to Calcutta and Bombay.

1874.—Municipal Act extended to Kharar.

1875.—Lapse of the Manimájra estate (69 villages) on death of Rája Bhagwán Singh.

1876.—Fourteen villages of Pehowa pargana transferred to Kaithal tahsíl, Karnál.

Orders of 1864 banishing the Mír of Kotaha and attaching his property rescinded.

1877.—Sardár Jai Singh, of Manauli, died. Autár Singh (minor) succeeded.

1878.—Existing head-works of Western Jumna Canal brought into use.

1880.—A District Board Meeting-room on the *kacheri* premises improvised. [The building is an out-house which was improved.]

1881, 17*th February*.—Census of Province (includin Native States).

1882, *November*.—Sirhind Canal opened by the Viceroy.

Central Jail at Rúpar abolished. Proceedings of fresh settlement commenced.

1883.—First sod of the Rájpura-Patiála Railway (now Rájpura-Bhatinda Railway) turned by Lieutenant-Governor.

Umballa Sadar Police Office built.

1884.—Scarcity and crop failure.

Rs. 30,000 revenue suspended.

Canal Railway from Doráha to Rúpar taken up.

Commissionership of Umballa Division (Umballa, Ludhiána, Simla) abolished. Umballa included in new Delhi Commissionership of seven districts.

Civil and Sessions Division (now Umballa, Simla and Ludhiána) created.

[The Divisional Judge eventually occupies the residence and office in cantonments previously used by the Commissioner].

Sardár Jiwan Singh, C.S.I., of Shahzádpur, married to a sister of the Mahárája of Patiála.

1884.—Rájpura-Patiála Railway opened, 31st October (Patiála-Bhatinda Section completed in 1889).

1886.—Local Funds Office at Sadar built. Wards' School in civil lines abolished, wards being transferred to Aitchison College, Lahore.

Kharar Municipality abolished.

The Kalesar Forest declared a reserved one under Section 19, Act VII of 1878 (Notification No. 190, dated 28th April).

1887-88.—New settlement by Messrs. Kensington and Douie completed, and new assessments introduced.

1889.—Remaining 89 villages of Pehowa tract transferred from Pípli to Kaithal tahsíl, Karnál.

Patiála-Bhatinda Section of Rájpura-Bhatinda Railway opened 15th October.

1890.—Crop failure. Rs. 44,000 revenue suspended.

1891.—Census of the Province.

Delhi-Umballa-Kálka Railway opened.

Assessments of new settlement introduced into Morni iláka. District Judge's Court-house built at Sadar.

Sardár of Bunga jágír died childless, leaving collaterals (Succession not yet (1898) settled).

Water first admitted to sections of Indri-Sirsa Branch, Western Jumna Canal.

1892.—Civil Hospital at sadar built.

Kharíndwa jágír lapsed on death of Sardár Rám Naráin Singh.

1893.—Sardár Jiwan Singh, C.I.E., of Búriya, died, Lachhman Singh (minor) succeeded.

1894, *May*.—Great Solar Eclipse Fair at Thánesar.

1895.—City water-works opened by Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick.

1896-97.—Great famine. Wheat sold at 7 sérs.

Sardár Autár Singh, the blind Sardár of Manauli, died. His son, Ragbír Singh (a minor), succeeded.

1897, *October*.—Pípli tahsíl transferred to Karnál district.

Tirah and Frontier Expeditions. Impressment of pack animals and carts for the front through Civil Agency.

Sardár Uttam Singh (Singhpuria), of Ghanauli, died, leaving one son by one wife and three by another.

CHAPTER IV.

Jagir Succession.

Izádi Shakh.

Mr. Kensington calculated that there were some 10,000 jágírdárs in the district. The best English list of them is given as an Appendix in the Gazetteer (1892-93). They divide themselves into major and minor jágírdárs. The latter cannot be mentioned by name in any handy list. Accounts of the origin of these jágírdárs can be found in many official volumes. One writer likens these "Conquest Sikhs" to the Normans in that they entered a foreign country and established strongholds to dominate the land. Speaking roughly, three-fifths of the revenue of Umballa proper is now paid to Government and two-fifths is *jágír ;* but originally the tract was composed of a series of petty chiefdoms, the villages of which paid the land tax to the overlord. Or again groups of villages paid the tax to the overlord's followers or horsemen.

Ochterlony's proclamation of 1809 guaranteed the perpetuation of existing rights to those dominating the land. But the real state of affairs was not well understood. The number of chiefdoms or of overlords was not realised ; nor was the *status* of the horsemen as mere assignees ascertained. The loose terms of the proclamation of 1809 recognised these horsemen or followers as independent rulers and thus a host of small fraternities quartered over the country had rights perpetuated to them which it had actually been only intended to perpetuate to ruling chiefs.

Up to 1849 the thirty or so chiefdoms of the Umballa tract remained possessed of full privileges, but Kalsia is now alone independent ; the others having become classed as *jágírs* with the revenues assigned in perpetuity to the holders thereof. Similarly the assignments held by the horsemen and followers of the original chiefs remained guaranteed in perpetuity. These assignments, major and minor, are heritable in the default of direct lineal heirs by collaterals, provided that they spring from a common ancestor who held possession in 1809. The Chronological Table at the beginning of this volume shows how the present revenue district was built up out of escheats and lapses.

Of large lapses which have latterly occurred Manimájra, Siálba and more recently Kharíndwa are instances ; and lapses of an insignificant kind may annually be expected among the *pattidári* assignments. But a far more prominent feature of the situation is the continual flow of successions, each case calling for

an order of *izádi shakh*, together, as often as not, with a re-distribution of shares. Shares in some families decrease by repeated sub-division till they almost reach vanishing point. Cases have occurred in which a sharer has been sent four annas by money order (after deduction of two annas for commission). As much of this assigned revenue is officially collected, tediously minute accounts have to be maintained at tahsíls.

Concerning these mention is made elsewhere. But there is corresponding trouble with the family trees. All deaths, births and successions have to be studiously registered.

In his settlement of 1887, Mr. Kensington caused to be prepared sadar and tahsíl volumes in which the shares and pedigree tables of the whole host of petty jágírdárs, *patti* by *patti*, and family by family, find a place. Similar volumes for the major jágírdárs were arranged. These books deserve to be wor hily maintained. They are beautiful records and the result of exceptional labour. All births and deaths and re-allotments of shares are recorded in these by the sadar and tahsíl *jágír* muharrirs.

Sarkardahs (drawing a percentage of the assigned revenue as remuneration) are appointed as recognised reporters of births and deaths to particular groups of families.

It is impossible for the Deputy Commissioner himself to dispose of all these announcements of births and to himself order *izádi shakh* in all cases. Under existing arrangements the Revenue Assistant passes such orders in the case of shares not worth more than Rs. 50. He refers cases when there is objection on the part of reversioners as to the genuineness of a reported birth. Otherwise he may either grant *izádi shakh* or pass orders continuing the *jágír* to collaterals when there is no lineal issue. There can be no doubt as to which are the perpetual *jágírs* dating from 1809. The majority of *jágírs* in the district are of this class. The *status* of all *jágírs* is moreover recorded in the *jágír* volumes (under the head *shiráit jágír*) on pages prefacing the entries regarding each *patti*, or each group of families. The Deputy Commissioner gives orders for *izádi shakh*, or for resumption, or for continuance to collaterals of all *jágírs* or shares worth more than Rs. 50.

As to major *jágírs* special precautions have to be taken. The Deputy Commissioner can grant *izádi shakh* when births of sons are reported, but he cannot resume, nor continue to collaterals of his own motion. Rules of old standing embodied in the Revenue Circulars require that when there is no direct lineal male to inherit a major *jágír*, each such case must be reported to Government for decision on its merits. In recent years for instance, there was no

direct male heir to the Bunga jágír and the then Deputy Commissioner continued the *jágír* to the Sardárs of Ghanauli and Bhurtgarh as reversioners without making any reference. His orders were withdrawn and the case was reported for the orders of Government which are still (1898) awaited. Such a reference was not only required by orders, but this was eminently a case in which it was expedient to give Government the opportunity of interfering by the exercise of the primogenial law in order to save the eventual subdivision of a major *jágír* amongst a numerous offspring.

To sum up it may be said that though the Deputy Commissioner must refer cases of major *jágírs*, and must keep a personal watch over the continuance to collaterals of all *jágírs* or shares of any importance, he need not pay close attention to such continuance and to the grant of *izádi shakh* in petty cases. The *jágír* volumes clearly show what reversioners exist, and there is no going beyond the family tree. Again a recent Circular (embodied in the Revenue Circulars) issued partly on the strength of representations made from this district renders it a matter of little moment in ordinary cases whether announced sons are spurious or not, provided that immediate or prospective collaterals do not object. If objection to an announcement of birth happens to be raised reference has to be made to the Commissioner. That officer can then order enquiry either public or secret. If he declines to intervene, *izádi shakh* is granted. The position taken up by Government is one of indifference. No anxiety is displayed to resume these petty *jágírs* on every chance. As long as reversioners are satisfied Government is ready to accept announced heirs as genuine without question.

Supposititious children are not uncommon. One might go so far as to say that they are in some groups of families the rule and not the exception. The setting up of a spurious child as heir has to a great extent become a vicarious form of adoption. The system is regarded with shut eyes by all jágírdárs not immediately interested. Those who live in glass houses cannot afford to throw stones.

At one time Deputy Commissioners resented these subterfuges exceedingly, regarding them as insults to their perspicacity or perhaps they were unwilling to miss chances of access of revenue.

As a consequence with great trouble and after many unpleasant inquisitorial proceedings which were undoubtedly extremely repugnant to the countryside and to the large *jágír* houses, several such frauds were exposed. But the system of exposure was neither dignified as a rule, nor popular; and the recent

orders of Government will prevent ill-judged operations of the kind in future.

It is, however, impossible for a Deputy Commissioner not to intervene *proprio motu* on occasions. The following case may be quoted :—A jágírdár of some importance announced by gilt *murasila* the birth of a male heir and asked for "*izádi shakh*." Unfortunately for the jágírdár before such was granted a police officer tracked a lost child to his fort, and with the parents sat down before it. The clue was sound; and the jágírdár, warned by the Deputy Commissioner, thought it best to privately restore the child. Then it became a question of what should be done with the gilded announcement of birth. To re-call it was impossible and to take it back from the Deputy Commissioner's hand equally difficult. A telegram to say that the child had died settled the matter, and while the jágírdár went into mourning for an heir who had not existed the application for "*izádi shakh*" was filed.

It may be taken very nearly for granted that when a jágírdár suddenly dies with no son alive, one of his widows will proclaim herself *enceinte*. In the case of an important *jágír* worth sharing one of two widows may do this, even though the deceased may have left a son by the other. In such case there is pretty sure to be lively objection. An important case of this kind occurred not long ago, *izádi shakh* being refused when a posthumous child by a junior widow was announced.

In such cases when decision is necessary one way or the other either in the interests of objecting collaterals or (in the absence of collaterals) in the interests of Government, a good plan of action is to require the widow to interview a lady doctor either at Umballa head-quarters or at her residence, witnesses to identity for both sides being present. Every excuse for evading such a call may be expected, and if they are so put forward it may be taken for granted that according to custom the widow is only being represented as *enceinte* by her mother and relations. It is considered worth while to retain a hold on the benefits to be got from a *jágír* even though a "nobody's child" be made jágírdár.

In such cases even though the verdict of the lady doctor be that the widow is *enceinte* or has recently been a mother, it does not follow that the male child for whom *izádi shakh* is asked was the child born, as the immediate exchange at time of delivery of a female child for a male is likely to be provided for by the widow's mother and others who rule the *zenána*.

CHAPTER V.

Primogeniture in major jagirs.

The descent of large *jágírs* to single individuals according to a fixed law being favourable to political stability and order, the Supreme Government in 1859 thought it advisable to adopt the law of primogeniture (or its equivalent) in respect of all perpetual *jágírs* granted after that date, with a view to all such *jágírs* being ordinarily made inheritable integrally by a single heir.

As regards *jágírs* which existed before the above-mentioned date efforts were also made in 1860-61 to introduce the rule of primogeniture.

By a Circular, dated 25th May 1860, Commissioners were asked to ascertain the wishes of the owners of any considerable perpetual *jágírs* in their Divisions, and in the event of any agreeing to the primogenial law, formal deeds were to be taken from them.

The enquiries were conducted in the vernacular in this Division. All major jágírdárs were written to by *murasila*. In the Commissioner's Office there is a bulky vernacular file containing the answers of the Sardárs to these *murasilás*. A considerable number of *jágír*-holders drew up agreements in conformity with the suggestions of Government. These deeds were put in original on the Delhi vernacular file. Copies have, however, been lately obtained for the Umballa Office. The Circular of 1860 had directed that such deeds should be lodged with Government; and a subsequent Circular, dated 6th April 1861, added that these deeds "when confirmed by Government would be binding on the successors in the *jágir* for all generations."

As a great many leading houses had presented deeds at the time when the Circular of 1860 issued and other houses at a later date; or, the general result was that a large number of the jágírdárs accepted the principle of primogeniture in whole and the remainder in part. If Government, then, at that time when legal questions were not so beset with difficulties as now, had carried out its original intentions of considering and confirming these deeds or declarations, many undesirable joint successions would have been avoided and successións might now be running according to something like a fixed primogenial law.

But doubts seem to have occurred even in 1860 as to the efficacy of the deeds and of the power of Government to legalise them by mere executive ratification. For though in his

No. 182, dated 20th September 1860, Mr. Barnes, Commissioner and Superintendent of the Cis-Sutlej States, made a full report to the Local Administration concerning the deeds executed by the Umballa jágírdárs, there was no immediate response; in fact from that date the subject seems to have slept for many years. In 1889 it was revived by a printed demi-official, dated September 1889, from the Secretary to Government, Punjab, to all Commissioners, asking them to again report what deeds accepting the principle of primogeniture were executed in 1860-61, and whether in cases in which such had been executed successions had really been governed by them. More or less complete lists were in consequence sent in by Deputy Commissioners to Commissioners. The whole question was then brought before Government as will be seen from the Proceedings in the Revenue and Agricultural Department for September 1894 (a copy of these Proceedings will be found on the Umballa book file). Mr. Ogilvie, Financial Commissioner, submitted a valuable note on the legal aspect of the case which is printed as an Appendix to the Proceedings.

That Government has not as yet (1897) come to any final conclusion in the matter is clear from paragraph 12 of the review of the report on the Revenue Administration of the Province for the year ending 30th September 1896. In this paragraph the following words occur :—" In this matter (of commutation of petty *jágírs*) and also in the somewhat similar question of the introduction of the rule of primogeniture, it will probably be found necessary to resort to legislation, if agreements entered into by incumbent jágírdárs are to hold good as against descendants and collaterals."

If the declaratory deeds of the jágírdárs had been confirmed by the Government in 1861, it seems that Section 8 of the Punjab Laws Act (Act IV of 1872) would, if it had had retrospective effect, have covered any question of legality ; but it is true that in these cases there are other complexities beyond the mere fact that acts do not ordinarily have retrospective effect.

The last time the matter was dealt with in the Umballa Office was in 1896, when referring to paragraph 136 (pages 72-73) of Mr. Kensington's Settlement Report of Umballa, the Deputy Commissioner by his No. $\frac{253}{872}$, dated 31st July 1896, in submitting a fresh report on the case to the Commissioner, pressed for some definite decision. The Commissioner in his No. 902, dated 26th August 1896, pointed to the Proceedings of Government of September 1894, which showed that the whole question was before Government and as yet

undecided. The Umballa Office has, therefore nothing to do at present (1897) but to await some eventual decision in the matter. There is a minute drawn up in English (by Mr. Hailey) on the office file, showing which Sardárs originally executed agreements, and to what purpose; and how far successions have been affected by the agreements.

It may be added that at the time of the Settlement of 1887 several Sardárs put in either altogether fresh or revised declarations intended to regulate succession in their *jágírs*. Sardár Joála Singh of Jharauli in particular made this move. His case was referred; and the then Lieutenant-Governor (Sir James Lyall) delivered himself of an opinion which certainly militated against the chance of the deeds of 1860-61 being accepted as operative unless countenanced by some special legislation. Sir James considered that it was beyond a jágírdár's power to arbitrarily change the custom of succession in his *jágír*, as no declaration which he drew up would avail to affect the rights of lineal successors or reversioners claiming to inherit according to customary law: for a *jágír* being inalienable property to start with, the holder for the time being may be adjudged devoid of any personal testatory power in regard to it.

Enough has been written to show that at present (1897-98) as far as local officers are concerned the primogenial question is at a dead-lock. The higher authorities have the question before them, however, and if the Bunga succession case (still pending) is to be decided in the most desirable way, Government will apparently have to face the primogenial question also. If this Bunga jágír is not continued to one collateral only, it will descend to several with a considerable progeny alive already, and thus it will become a *jágír* without *raison d'être* split up into several sub-divisions and with the title lost. Whereas if the senior collateral inherited solely he would apparently become Sardár of Ghanauli and Bunga.

NOTE.—The question of an authoritative introduction of the rule of primogeniture in the case of all considerable *jágírs* has been referred by the Punjab Government to the Government of India (*vide* Proceedings of Government in the Revenue Department for June 1898).

CHAPTER VI.

PURCHASE OUT OF PETTY JAGIRS.

The *pattidári* jágírdárs being numbered by thousands and the *onus* of work being ever on the increase in connection with pedigree tables, re-distribution of shares and *jágir* accounts, a means of escape by purchasing out the pettier *jágír* rights has naturally presented itself. An inspection of the *jágír* volumes is needed to understand the extraordinary nicety of the calculations regarding shares made in the settlement of 1887. When it is said that in the *hissa kashi* or allotment of shares, *chittáks* of a pie had ordinarily to enter into calculations, some idea of the complex labour entailed may be arrived at. With the multiplication of offspring shares continue dwindling down; and scores of jágírdárs are now entitled to only ridiculously small amounts. Men with the high sounding title of "jágírdár" are glad to take posts as chaprásís. That a host of men of this class should remain assignees of land revenue in perpetuity is impossible, considering the enormous amount of useless work entailed and the extremely small pecuniary advantage secured to the payees. But a solution of the difficulty has not yet presented itself on account of the unwillingness of the payees to commute, and the reluctance of the Government to use compulsion owing to the use of the words "in perpetuity" in Ochterlony's proclamation.

However microscopic a petty jágírdár's share may be, and however tiresome it may seem for him to trouble about receiving it at all, the idea of commuting his share will be distasteful to him.

These assignees think entirely of the social *status* conferred by the title of jágírdár. This title gives them a social superiority independent of their financial position. It enables them to contract better marriages, and it prevents them from being confounded with the cultivating classes on whom their ancestors imposed a yoke. The title is the "hall mark" of the conqueror distinguishing him from the conquered. The invading Sikhs have not become assimilated with the rest of the rural population. As collectors of the land tax they could hardly gain popularity, and they are to a great extent regarded as foreigners still.

In the English Office there is a file which discusses measures for purchasing out. There would be no object in buying out the rights of men who hold appreciable *jágírs*. It is not in their case

that the trouble arises. But in order to give the needed relief to the administration it would be necessary to buy out the rights of a very large number of men or families receiving less than a certain amount per annum. Even if the figures were fixed low, a very large proportion of jágírdárs would be bought out.

The file referred to shows the limit it would be desirable to fix, and what the cost of such commutation would be.

The papers were sent up to Government by the Commissioner, but Government apparently does not see its way to taking action without considering the question of legislation. (See paragraph 12 of the Review of the Report on the Revenue Administration of the Province for the year ending September 1896).

Compulsory commutation of a wholesale kind would be unpopular and impolitic, but on the other hand if action is deferred until the jágírdárs express a willingness to commute, the existing situation will be indefinitely prolonged. Some remedy will have eventually to be found which would neither be oppressive nor unjust; and the best solution of the difficulty seems to lie in some compromise concerning the title of jágírdár. Seeing how much the title is valued it might be expedient to extinguish assignments without extinguishing the title.

Family pride and not pecuniary advantage being at stake, it seems that a petty jágírdár would have no cause of complaint if his assignment were bought out at so many years' purchase, and some distinctive title were secured to him in perpetuity which would recognise his original *status* as a Cis-Sutlej jágírdár.

CHAPTER VII.

OFFICIAL JAGIR COLLECTIONS.

"*Makruka jágír.*"

A great deal of *jágír* income is officially collected. This is inevitable. It is a manifest impossibility for all the several thousands of petty jágírdárs to collect their assignments.

Sarbaráhs (not to be confounded with *sarkardahs,* who are recorders) are appointed for families or groups of families to act as collectors. These collect assignments from the lambardárs in the gross, paying the shares to the various assignees.

However, in many complicated cases *sarbaráhs* cannot well act. Excessive subdivision has often rendered the shares of some *jágír* bodies ascertainable only through the *jágír* registers. Very many petty jágírdárs do not know what their shares are and take the official allotment as final. Again the income of many *jágír* bodies is recoverable from villages geographically far apart. In these and other instances official collection and subsequent official distribution is expedient.

Again many jágírdárs are permanently absent from the district, some serving with regiments in various parts of India or in Burmah. Such customarily apply to have their income officially collected, and when the shares of some individuals are so collected it is often necessary or more simple to collect the income of the whole family or group of families.

There are thus official collections made "by order" and the same made "by request."

There is a printed report by Mr. Kensington on the subject of "official collections," and it was determined about the time of his settlement in which *jágírs* official collections should be made.

A subsequent report made about 1896 showed for the Commissioner's information how far the work of official collection had been swelled by collections made "by order" or "by request," since settlement. The *jágír* income of the numerous wards of court is, of course, officially collected.

These official collections and distributions, and the necessity for entering up successions in the *jágír* volumes caused tahsíl *jágír* moharrirs, working under the sadar *jágír* office, to be appointed at all tahsíls (Rúpar excepted).

These moharrirs prepare for each harvest "a demand statement" showing what *jágír* revenues have to be collected. The

statement contains entry of only such shares as by District Order have been ordered or permitted to be collected.

The lambardárs pay in the *jágír* revenue entered in the demand statement along with the *khálsa* revenue, and as the collections for any *jágír patti* are completed a statement of collections is sent for check to the sadar. At the sadar any sums which have to be paid to jágírdárs whose seat of residence is in a tahsíl other than the tahsíl of collection, are subtracted and remitted.

These *jágír* accounts are a source of continual anxiety to the District Officer. At each tahsíl inspection they have to be thoroughly examined. If once allowed to get into confusion in any tahsíl none but experts can set them straight. A deal of attention has been directed to these accounts of recent years. The opportunities for peculation unless accounts are clear are great.

Audit of the accounts of one *jágír* moharrir in 1897 disclosed disorder running through two or three years. Irregularities had been committed and the accounts had never been got straight thereafter. In the past these accounts were treated in a very light-hearted way by some Tahsíldárs who seemed inclined to regard *makruka jágír* monies as a kind of miscellaneous fund. One Tahsíldár borrowed, or proposed to borrow, a sum from *makruka jágír* to repair a road. A jágírdár in want of ready money might be advanced a lump sum down when no money was due to him and so on. To defray the costs of settlement due from jágírdárs a lump sum was taken out of *makruka jágír* in the Pípli tahsíl without regard to the proportions payable by individuals. It seemed to have escaped the attention of those responsible that the money in hand was a collection of separate temporary deposits merely awaiting withdrawal.

The accounts are rendered more complicated by the sums due from jágírdárs to Government on account of "Service Commutation" which may be two annas or four annas or eight annas in the rupee. This deduction necessitates another intricate *hissakashi* and also a separate "Demand Statement" for "Service Commutation" alone. This last "Demand Statement" concerns not only *jágír* revenue officially collected, but such as is collected by jágírdárs themselves or by their *sarbaráhs*.

Acquittance rolls for each *patti* to show that distributions are complete have to be sent to the sadar, a counterpart being kept in the tahsíl. The payee's seal is taken on each copy and on the cheque by which he is paid. In the tahsíl inspection minute books will be found instructions concerning these acquittance rolls and the accounts generally. Payment by cheque in each individual case has latterly been insisted on.

CHAPTER VIII.

SOCIAL POSITION OF JAGIRDARS.

The major jágírdárs of the district descend from that group of original chiefdoms of Umballa and Karnál commonly known as the "*chautisghar* or 34 houses."*

This is a matter of pride with the jágírdárs who value family traditions and pedigree tables probably more than anything else in the way of distinction. The Sikh *misls*, to which the ancestors of the jágírdárs belonged when they came as conquerors into the Cis-Sutlej tract, are given in Wynyard's Settlement Report, but the families acquired a relative importance locally, apart from the importance they originally possessed in the Mánjha.

Though now all the Sardárs in the district, with the exception of Kalsia, have declined from chiefs to jágírdárs, the families of some, nevertheless, intermarry with the families of ruling chiefs.

The sister of Sardár Jiwan Singh, C. I. E., of Búriya, for instance, married Mahárája Narindar Singh of Patiála, grandfather of the present chief; and a daughter of the house recently married the younger son of the Rája of Farídkot. Again Sardár Jiwan Singh, C. S. I., of Shahzádpur, married the sister of the present Mahárája of Patiála. The Kalsia Sardár formed matrimonial alliance with Jínd.

Government has assigned to each prominent jágírdár his place of precedence, and officially recognised title, in the Darbár list, and in these cases therefore titles of Sardár, or Sardár Bahádur, or Mián can be accurately observed. But the title of Sardár is very commonly self-assumed in the district. It is heard used in connection with jágírdárs whose names have no place in the Darbár list and subordinate officials apply it carelessly to almost any Sikh jágirdár of respectability. Again, the use of

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* It is not easy to discover the original list of the *chautisghar*, or 34 houses. Wynyard, in page 9 of his Settlement Report, writes : "The country under report was part of the *sirkár* of Sirhind. The *sirkár* consisted of 33 parganas, &c." Again, at page 24 of the Gazetteer (1892-93), appears the following: "It was however fonnd that as a fact the so-called Cis-Sutlej Sovereign States were represented as far as Umballa was concerned by some thirty petty rulers." At page 76 of Wynyard's Settlement Report again there is given a list of 32 Sardárs who were allowed certain privileges. In the *alkábnáma* mentioned in the above chapter, 32 Sardárs are entered. The Appendix at page 146 of the Gazetteer (1892-93) gives a list of the survivors of the 34 houses "of Umballa and Karnál." As the Phulkián States, Máler Kotla, Kalsia and some other important families form another group called the *naughar* or "9 houses," the 34 houses were probably all contained in the Umballa tract with the exception of two or three, such as Arnauli and Kunjpura in Karnál.

the title of Sardárni has much crept into fashion when jágírdárni or "mussammát" would be a more appropriate title. The wives of Sardárs having seats in Darbár may reasonably be styled Sardárnís but certainly not those of jágírdárs not so distinguished. The title of *Sardárni* in fact hardly seems to have been in use in earlier times. Mussammát was considered a sufficient title in pedigree tables of distinguished houses. In a law-suit of 1869, a widow of the house of Arnauli (Karnál) is joined as defendant under the title "Mussammát": and "Mai" was a common title for a dowager.

These matters present themselves for consideration when jágírdárs are addressed by speech or letter, and they are not unworthy of consideration if value is to be attached to the grant by Government of specific titles drawing a distinction between "Sardár" and "Sardár Bahádur" for instance.

Again, the manner of address to be adopted in communications addressed to jágírdárs or their widows is rather uncertain. A great number of jágírdárs address communications to the Deputy Commissioner in *murásila* form, and have been accustomed to be addressed in the same form. According to the regulations on the subject letters in the form of *murásila* should be restricted to ruling chiefs and to titular Nawábs and Rájás, who are not ruling chiefs. (See a Circular No. 3, issued in 1894, embodying the "orders of Government regarding the routine and procedure to be observed in the submission of correspondence"). According to this Circular correspondence with native gentlemen, whose names are on the Provincial Darbár List, should be confined to letters in the form of *khats*, and Divisional Darbárís should be addressed by *parwánah*. This has not been the general practice in this district in connection with jágírdárs, nor is it now.

There is an old *alkábnáma* obtained from the Commissioner's Office in 1885, which contains the names of 32 Sardárs, and gives particulars as to how they are to be addressed. The manner of address in each case is incompatible with the recognised form of *khat*, a complimentary introduction (*adáb*) and a closing sentence (*khátimah*) being provided for. In an ordinary *khát* neither *adáb* nor *khátimah* is required. It has not been thought worth while to disturb existing customs in these respects, but the tendency to address jágírdárs other than those named in the *alkábnama* in a style not befitting their station should be checked.

The Sardárs of the *chautisghar* families are punctilious in discharging duties and observances required by social etiquette in the intercourse between families having any connection by

marriage. Visits of condolence, of gratulation and of other ceremony are discharged with formality ; and presents are, as custom demands, made on the occasions of marriages, births and betrothals, &c. All these customs are rather bewildering to a District Officer, who is generally in the position of guardian to the minors of some important families. Moreover, when the estates are indebted it is difficult to decide whether the social necessity is sufficient excuse for the outlay on complimentary gifts or functions. Grants of cash to meet the needs of some time-honored ceremony are often asked for, which are quite disproportionate to the means of the estate. Whether such ceremonies can be suppressed without risk of offence is hard to decide, as the nomenclature used for them is totally unfamiliar to the ordinary European. Such ceremonies as the *Chhuchhak* or the *Nának chhak*, for instance, mean very little to the uninitiated, but sums in thousands may be asked for for meeting the alleged necessities of them, in high families.

When a lady of the house of Búriya married to the son of the Rája of Farídkot gave birth to a son, about Rs. 5,000 was asked for by the Búriya dowager for expenditure on the *Chhuchhak* ceremony, which ceremony apparently involves an interchange of congratulations between the husband's family and the bride's, together with feasting and gifts for the bride. An indebted estate like Búriya could not afford the amount, but the Rája of Farídkot was by no means pleased that extensive preparations were not made to receive his son at Búriya.

All these are difficult questions, and native officials can alone declare what ceremonials or functions are indispensable or not, and what amount of expenditure is appropriate. It may be taken for granted that the ward's relations will demand an outside sum, as family aggrandisement overruns all considerations of indebtedness or economy. Ceremonies and functions of this kind with obscure names occur perpetually, and in dealing with a ward's estate it is important to discover which are of real or only alleged importance.

CHAPTER IX.

Hereditary Honorary Magistrates and Sub-Registrars.

Prominent major jágírdárs in the district consider that they have a more or less recognised claim to magisterial powers as Honorary Magistrates. The claim traces its origin to the time when *jágírs* had the *status* of States. The powers and privileges of all the chiefdoms in the district were absolutely maintained from 1809 to 1845. Each chief great or small had within his own territory absolute civil and criminal jurisdiction. This independence according to Griffin "had for the chiefs no nobler significance than the right to do evil without restraint and to oppress the people who were so unfortunate as to be their subjects." This may have been the case, but whether the chief oppressed or not, he was Chief Justice of the Peace within his own dominions, and he kept others in check, and he was held responsible by the British Agency that peace of a kind was kept. It is to be Justices of the Peace in some kind of succession to their forefathers that the major jágírdárs still have desire. They cannot, however, demand to be Honorary Magistrates as of right.

The first Sikh War in 1845 led to the first reduction of independent powers. The unsatisfactory attitude of many of the Cis-Sutlej Sikhs was sufficient justification for the step. The police jurisdiction of most of the chiefs was then abolished (1846-47) only the nine greater chiefdoms being exempted. This led to inability on the part of the chiefs to get in their revenues, the police having been the most successful collecting agency. A settlement of the land-revenue within the chiefdoms was therefore contemplated, when the second Sikh War of 1848 and the annexation of the Punjab in 1849 gave a fresh turn to affairs. In June 1849, all chiefs, except those previously exempted in 1846, were deprived of all sovereign powers and ceased to hold Criminal Civil and Fiscal jurisdiction. Deprived of sovereign powers the chiefs became jágírdárs and the chiefdoms were assessed to land revenue as *jágírs*.

It will be seen therefore that a major jágírdár cannot claim to be an Honorary Magistrate as of right; but it is nevertheless not less the case that to some families magisterial powers have by courtesy been in an hereditary fashion conceded. Along with magisterial powers civil powers as a Munsiff and the office of Sub-Registrar have been in some cases in like manner granted.

The following jágírdárs hold or have held powers in recent years :—

*Sardár Jiwan Singh, C. I. E., of Búriya, (deceased).

*Sardár Bhagwán Singh, of Soháua (deceased).

Sardár Brij Chand Singh, of Sohána, son of Sardár Bhagwán Singh.

*Sardár Tára Singh, of Bhareli (deceased).

Sardár Parduman Singh, of Rámgarh.

Sardár Uttam Singh, of Ghanauli (deceased).

Sardár Jiwan Singh, C.S.I., of Shahzádpur.

*Sardár Harnám Singh, of Kharar.

*Sardár Joála Singh, of Jharauli (now Karnál).

The Sardárs with asterisks against their names were or are also Sub-Registrars. Powers as a Munsif have been given along with magisterial powers in several of these cases, the powers being second class or third class. Similarly the magisterial powers given have been either second or third class. The possession of these powers is much desired by jágírdárs. The desire springs from family pride and the traditions of the past. Armed with the powers, whether they are used or not, the holders still appear as rural magnates in a manner that reminds them of the past.

The powers if bestowed can be, and mostly have been, limited to the tract in which lie the holders' *jágírs*. This is understood the more easily because of the jágírdárs' predecessors having had no authority outside their own territories. Considered as concessions to rural notables who have declined in importance the powers are not inappropriately bestowed, but whether these rural Honorary Magistrates are any real aid to the regular judiciary is another question.

The sub-division of *jágírs* has moreover rendered the grant of such powers far less appropriate than it used to be in many cases. Take for instance the Singhpuria family. When one man holds a whole *jágír* like Budh Singh did, there is a reasonableness in his being a Magistrate of the whole *jágír* lands. But Budh Singh is now represented by four separate houses with separated *jágírs*, and it is hard to say which representative should be Magistrate. Uttam Singh of the Singhpuriás, the senior representative of the Ghanauli house, held the powers of late years. He died in 1897, leaving one adult and minor sons. His brother Partáb Singh immediately represented that he should succeed to the powers, while the Sardárs of Bhurtgarh made a similar representation in their own favor.

Beyond this difficulty of making a selection, there is the difficulty of getting Sardárs to follow the regular lines of procedure in case-work. They are apt to fall foul of Appellate Courts and some show such inaptitude for judicial business that without being deprived of their powers they are rendered Magistrates only in name by having all cases withdrawn from their cognizance.

Again that the establishment of these rural Courts in any way satisfies local demands for Courts of ready access is very doubtful. Ordinarily villagers would probably rather not have their cases disposed of by their jágírdár. The head of a great undivided *jágír* in the past was possibly far over the heads of the agriculturists, but the jágírdár of a *jágír* which has come to him by division is brought to a level nearer the villagers' own, and his impartiality is not unseldom impugned.

The trouble that was occasioned in connection with persistent complaints against the Sardár of Jharauli (now Karnál) who was made an Honorary Magistrate and Sub-Registrar at the instance of the Deputy Commissioner in about 1891, was sufficient to render succeeding Deputy Commissioners cautious of giving powers except in cases of very strong claim. Whether the Sardár exercised his powers rightly or wrongly, it was an intolerable nuisance to be continually receiving complaints which from their nature required some attention.

Several applications for the grant of powers have been received in the period between 1893 and 1898, but excepting Sardár Brij Chand Singh, of Soháne, whose father secured powers for him in his lifetime, no new rural Honorary Magistrates have been created. Those who have applied have been Sardár Bahádur Partáp Singh of Miánpur (who is already non-official Sub-Rgistrar at Rúpar): Sardár Partáb Singh of Ghanauli; Sardár Randhír Singh of Bhurtgarh; Sardár Kartár Singh of Dyálgarh, and Sodhi Nariudá Singh of Kuráli, a Sodhi of a family whose *jágír* in Kuráli was confiscated after the Sikh War of 1845. The first three Sardárs asked for magisterial powers, and the latter gentlemen wished to be Sub-Registrars in addition.

These applications have not met with success. While the District Officer was being continually troubled about the Jharauli cases it was a bad time to apply.

Moreover it is extremely plain that most Sardárs only want powers as a dignity. They are not really anxious, most of them, to do case-work, and most are quite unsuited for such work. It would probably be far better in cases in which a claim to magisterial dignity is considered strong, to confer

powers in a compressed form so that the holders' duties would be limited to dealing with those sections of the Penal Code which deal with the taking of security for keeping the peace, the suppression of riots and affrays, &c. Such duties the jágírdárs are equal to, and the possession of such limited powers would probably satisfy their aspirations to rank as "Justices of the Peace." A District Officer would have no objection to appointing rural Honorary Magistrates on these lines. Moreover the grant of such limited powers would save Sardárs the humiliation of having cases withdrawn from their cognizance when they fail to satisfy the rules of procedure, &c.

It might be expedient before creating any new Honorary Magistrates in rural tracts to refer the question of granting powers in a restricted form.

The foregoing remarks are not intended to imply that Sardárs are incapable of dealing with cases under all circumstances. A Sardár, resident at the head-quarters of a tahsíl, who is thus in touch with official procedure, and can follow the lines on which he sees tahsíl Magistrates working, can at times be a useful aid to the Magistracy. Sardár Harnám Singh, of Kharar, is an example. Though at one time the Registrar of the Chief Court took exception to his methods, he has proved himself a useful auxiliary. He relieves the tahsíl of much work. He disposed of sixty-five non-cognizable criminal cases in 1897. He is also non-official Sub-Registrar.

Sardár Partáp Singh, of Miánpur, does good work as non-official Sub-Rigistrar at the head-quarters of Rúpar tahsíl.

The deductions to be made from the remarks in this chapter are that Honorary Magistrates and Munsifs and non-official Sub-Registrars may be made much use of at a tahsíl head-quarters but that there are many deterrent considerations when the creation of a rural Court or Registry Office out in some isolated Sikh Fort is applied for.

A pensioned Resaidar of Cavalry, Wazír Singh, of Chamkaur, is at present non-official Sub-Registrar at Umballa Sadar.

At Rúpar head-quarters there is an ex-inspector of police, Saiyad Qamar-ud-dín, who has powers as an Honorary Magistrate.

Another retired police officer, Sangat Singh, is non-official Sub-Registrar at Naráingarh.

At Jagádhri a retired Tahsíldár, Pandit Dya Kishen, is non-official Sub-Registrar and Honorary Magistrate.

CHAPTER X.

ATTACHMENT OF JAGIRS.

Decree-holders in the district are perpetually moving the Civil Courts to attach the assigned revenue leviable by jágírdárs, and the Civil Courts grant warrants of attachment readily, believing that such incomes are attachable. Such Courts cannot, however, effect attachment direct. They must procure attachment through the Collector under Section 141 *et seq.* of the Land Revenue Act. This was clearly laid down in the Financial Commissioner's Revenue Judgment No. 4 of 1894.

Consequently the Collector is often besieged with applications for the attachment of such incomes, he being expected to act either by the issue of orders prohibiting lambardárs from paying the income into the hand of the jágírdár, or when the *jágír* is officially collected by the issue of orders ordering the Tahsíldár to keep the collections in deposit pending appropriation by the Civil Court.

There is enough intricacy and difficulty in connection with *jágír* collections and distributions in the district ordinarily, without the introduction of these confusing prohibitory orders by the Civil Courts; and moreover an administrative officer feels considerable doubt whether from a political point of view or even from a legal one such *jágír* incomes should be made subject to attachment. The attachments therefore are both distasteful and perplexing to deal with. The general question was referred to the Commissioner under cover of this office No. $\frac{23}{123}$ R., dated 20th January 1898; a collection of rulings bearing on the subject having been made by Mr. Hailey in dealing with a case before him. As to the attachment of *jágírs* Civil Courts and executive officers hold rather conflicting views.

It was decided in Chief Court Civil Judgment No. 4 of 1894 that a *jágír* income is ordinarily attachable, inasmuch as it is "a benefit to arise out of land" within the meaning of the definition in the General Clauses Act (I of 1868).

But again in view of Section 11 of the Pensions Act (XXIII of 1871) some *jágírs* have been exempted by Civil Courts from attachment. See for example Chief Court Judgment No. 47 of 1890, in which a *jágír* was concerned belonging to Mián Bahádur Singh of Kothar, who had received it to enable him to support the title of Rája conferred for services rendered in 1857.

From the views expressed in this judgment and in the Financial Commissioner's Judgment No. 4 of 1894 it seems that each case has to be decided on its own merits when the non-liability to attachment of a *jágír* is asserted.

But, as in this district the majority of *jágírs* have the same *status*, *viz.*, the *status* of 1809, it would be extremely convenient if a general decision concerning them were arrived at. Considering the number of applications for attachment made it is practically impossible for every single case to be discussed and fought out.

There are two points in favour of the non-attachment of the *jágír* incomes in the district. In the first place a *jágír* is unsaleable and inalienable. A jágírdár can neither sell nor mortgage his *jágír*. He holds it for his lifetime under a strict entail. He has himself no power to alienate in favour of a decree-holder, and these are the conditions of the grant. Thus the Court in attaching practically makes an alienation in the face of the conditions of the grant.

The other point is the political one. Section 11 of the Pensions Act lays down that "no pension granted or continued on political considerations, or on account of past services, &c.," shall be liable to attachment. If the *jágír* considered in Chief Court Judgment No. 47 of 1890 was considered a "pension" granted on account of past services it would not be difficult to argue that the *jágírs* of 1809 are "pensions" granted and continued on political considerations. They were certainly *jágírs* maintained entirely on political considerations. Ochterlony's proclamation of a Protectorate in the Cis-Sutlej tract guaranteed the continuance of rights to revenue within the areas which are now *jágírs* entirely out of political considerations: so that if the words "pension" and "*jágír*" are, in legal parlance, interchangeable (as Judgment No. 47 of 1890 would indicate), exemption under Section 11 of the Pensions Act could be not unreasonably demanded.

But in Judgment No. 57 of 1884, which dealt with an Umballa *jágír*, the Chief Court reversed an order of the Judicial Assistant Commissioner, Umballa, holding the *jágír* exempt from attachment, stating that "the order of the Judicial Assistant Commissioner declaring the *jágír* income protected from attachment by Section 266 (*a*) Civil Procedure Code, was clearly erroneous. That clause relates only to pensions, and the protection given by Section 11 of the Pensions Act XXIII of 1871) also relates to pensions or allowances granted by Government."

Again in Judgment No. 133 of 1888, which concerned another Umballa *jágír*, it was argued that the framers of the Pension

Act had probably fully considered the matter of *jágírs*, as in Section 4 suits relating to pensions, or grants of money, or *land revenues*, conferred by Government are debarred from being heard *proprio motu* by Civil Courts. The deduction was therefore made that the omission of mention of *jágír* in Section 11 was intentional.

However this may be, enough has been written to show that the law might be made more clear with advantage, and that there are sufficient grounds for doubting whether the Courts are not withdrawing from jágírdárs a protection they are politically entitled to, and which it was the intention of Government that they should retain. As to the bad policy of such attachments, accompanied as they are with irritating processes effected by petty sheriff's officers, an administrative officer can only have one opinion.

The judgments quoted above were tabulated by the Sub-Divisional Officer of Rúpar (Mr. Hailey) in his memorandum dealing with a test attachment case. Much of his memorandum has been quoted in this article.

CHAPTER XI.

Maintenance of Jagirdarni Widows.

In the matter dealt with in this chapter it is necessary to distinguish between major and minor jágírdárs. It is difficult to give an offhand definition, but the *pattidári* jágírdárs are classed as "minor" and the remainder as "major jágírdárs." In an Appendix to Mr. Kensington's Gazetteer (1892-93) there is a list of major and minor jágírdárs.

Jágírdárs have two classes of rights in land, *viz.*, their *jágír* rights and proprietary or *biswedári* rights; the latter existing either within their own *jágír* lands (the lands being then called *sír jágír*) or within the *khálsa* areas.

There is no question about succession to *jágír* rights, widows being excluded from all succession. But there have been difficulties in connection with claims by widows to succeed to the *biswedári* rights.

In the case of the ordinary Jat zamíndár his widow on his death ordinarily inherits his *biswedári* land on a life-tenure with restrictions in the matter of alienation.

In the case of petty jágírdárs owning *biswedári* lands this rule is largely followed especially when *status* as jágírdár has become of less importance than *status* as biswedár.

But in the case of major jágírdárs the *zamíndári* custom is not followed.

The widows inherit neither the *jágír* nor the *biswedári* lands, but receive only maintenance allowances out of the *jágír*, and such pieces of land as may be devised to or allotted to them.

This is an important point to bear in mind as cases occur in which widows claim to succeed to the *biswedári* land according to the *zamíndári* custom.

The case of Bunga is one in point. The Bunga Sardár died childless in 1891, and his *biswedári* lands were divided between the collaterals. The widow sued to inherit these lands on a life-tenure. The suit was compromised in 1898.

There is a Chief Court Judgment (Civil Judgment No. 40 of 1869) which has decided the question on principles of Customary law. The judgment is detailed and elaborate. It was passed on the 30th April 1869 in the case of Jasmír Singh of Arnauli Appellant *versus* Mussammát Har Kaur. The judgment is applicable to the cases of major jágírdárs in this district, the Bháís of

Arnauli (Karnál) being jágírdárs on a similar footing. The judgment shows clearly that major jágírdárnís have in the past only been entitled to maintenance allowance out of the *jágír* income, and to pieces of land or gardens as a matter of grace. The judgment is a very complete stumbling-block in the way of a jágírdárni claiming to succeed to *biswedári* lands. The bar applies not only in the case of major *jágírs*, but often in the case of minor ones, as the Deputy Commissioner is continually being required to decide what amount out of a *jágír* inherited by collaterals should be set apart for the maintenance of the widow, and in these cases the amount of the maintenance proposed by the collateral is high or low according to whether the widow has or has not been allowed to take possession in whole or in part of the *biswedári* land owned by the deceased childless jágírdár.

An authority for the Deputy Commissioner's intervention in the matter of fixing maintenance allowances of widows is contained in No. V of the rules sanctioned by the Board of Administration in 1852 which are embodied in Revenue Circular No. 37, page 319.

The fixing of these maintenances for female relicts often gives a deal of trouble, especially when a major *jágír* comes under the Court of Wards. There may be a couple of widows and a mother and a grandmother of the deceased. Their allowances out of the *jágír* have to be fixed, and some garden or *bír* has to be given to each or to all jointly for supply of fodder, fruit, and fuel.

Cases in point in recent years have occurred in connection with the Buriya, Manauli and Bunga *jágírs*, and cases in connection with petty *jágírs* occur continually. The Deputy Commissioner can by no means escape from the importunate widow in Umballa. In the Búria fort, for instance, there reside (1897), the great-grandmother, the grandmother, the step-grandmother and the mother of the present ward. The allowances of these ladies were duly fixed when the estate came under Court, but they frequently ask for enhancements, or for a fresh garden, and want special grants and so on.

The Manauli *jágír* provides maintenances for the mother of the present ward, for his step-mother, for his aunt, and step-grandmother. [The custom of polygamy complicates relationships considerably]. When such ladies contract debts and want money for journeys or special purposes, or when they do not get on well together, a good many troublesome references have to be disposed of.

CHAPTER XII.

Court of Wards.

The existence of numerous *jágírs* in the district, held by jágírdárs who on the average are short-lived, causes a number of properties to come under the management of the Court of Wards.

There is probably far more work in Umballa in connection with wards than in any other district in the Province. The "Wards School," now embodied in the Aitchison College, had its origin here.

At no time has the Deputy Commissioner, as President of the Court, been without a number of estates on his hands.

In 1893 there were the following estates under the Court:—Manauli, Khandola (two estates), Shahabad, an estate of a minor Jharauli Sardár, the estates of two Rámgarh Sardárs, the estates of two Ráipur Sardárs, the large Búriya estate, the Pabhat estate, the estates of a Sardár of Sardáhéri, of a Sardár of Mustafabad, of a jágírdár of Mahmúdpur and a Sardár of Dhandalru.

In 1896 the following estates were under Court :—

(1). The estates of Sardárs Bhola Singh (since released) and Harbans Singh, of Khandola.

(2). The estate of Sardár Shib Naráin Singh, of Shahabad (now Karnál).

(3). Two Ráipur estates (since released).

(4). The Búriya estate.

(5). The Manauli estate.

(6). The Pabhat estate.

(7). A Dhandalru estate.

(8). A small Dhín estate.

(9). The large Bhareli estate

(10). The estate of Indar Singh and two others, of Shahabad.

The estate of the two Rámgarh Sardárs mentioned as under Court in 1893 was released, but came again under Court in 1897, an infant being the heir. The Manauli estate was released in 1894, but came again under Court on the death of Sardár Autár Singh in 1896, an infant being heir. The Manauli estate has been constantly under Court Management. The Búriya heir is a child who succeeded Sardár Jiwan Singh, C.I.E., about 1893.

Assumptions of control and releases by the Court occur intermittently, but a Deputy Commissioner would be exceptionally lucky who did not find a number of estates on his hands. The usually short lives of Sardárs and their small families render a large amount of business for the Court practically certain at all times. If one estate is released another falls in and so on.

The revenues of the different estates varied in 1896 from about Rs. 400 in the case of Dhín to Rs. 15,000, 35,000 and 42,000 in the cases of Bhareli, Manauli and Búriya ; these figures representing *jágír* income only and not *batái* or cash income from leased proprietary lands.

For one man, in addition to his regular duties, to manage with any success large and small estates of this kind was recognised to be an impossibility, and after considerable correspondence (see book file) a General Manager (Rái Bahádur Dharm Naráin) was appointed, whose pay is divided between the estates in proportion to their income. On all the estates there are local Managers, the larger ones having one or more as is necessary according to the position of the landed properties. To the General Manager all these local Managers are subordinate along with their muharrirs and petty staffs.

There is a Central Court of Wards Office at the Sadar, likewise under the control of the General Manager, who is responsible for the good order of the office, audit of accounts, and adjustment of loans, &c.

Papers requiring orders come up to the Deputy Commissioner under the General Manager's endorsement.

This work in connection with wards' estates is by no means light, and it was much swelled in the time of Mr. Gladstone, who, as President of the Court of Wards, conducted the business of a Loan Office, lending from the ledgers of rich wards, loans, large and small, to other wards or indebted Sardárs not under the Court. There were also stud and agricultural experiments conducted ; altogether the business in the Court of Wards Office bade fair to absorb more time and energy than most officers had in reserve to bestow.

The loan business has now been much reduced. Loans have of late years occasionally been made to temporarily relieve indebted estates under Court but not to outsiders. The work in connection with such is most embarrassing owing to the drafting and registering of deeds ; the obtaining of sufficient security by mortgage or hypothecation ; and to the action required when failures in repayment occur, &c., &c. But without the loan business and without

undertaking any abnormal classes of work, a District Officer will find that there is more than sufficient to engage his attention.

The adjustment of debts; sales and purchases and mortgages of land; difficulties in the collection of rents, suits for recovery or suits for ejectment; family quarrels; settlement of maintenance allowances of jágírdárnís; remissions of rent; fresh leases; repairs to buildings; sales of cattle and stock; sales of trees and of grazing; the despatch of wards to the Aitchison College and arrangements for their stay there and for returns at holiday time; adjustment of expenses on betrothals and marriages and those incurred at births and at funerals—these and a hundred and one other matters are constantly requiring attention and orders at the expense of more legitimate work.

There is of course constant petty litigation about rents and ejectments, and of late years in connection with the Búriya mortgages there have been heavy suits requiring the best legal advice.

The Deputy Commissioner must always retain a local legal practitioner as his adviser and his representative in suits. He has constantly to be signing powers-of-attorney. A pleader called Lála Kundan Lál, was at one time so employed, but Mr. Gladstone before 1893 appointed Lála Kirpa Rám, a Mukhtár, and this gentleman has been the Deputy Commissioner's legal agent since then up to date. As to fees, he is required to submit an annual or six-monthly statement showing his actual expenses and fees due. There has been trouble in getting this statement punctually and intelligently drawn up.

In the period between 1893 and 1898 the legal agent has on several occasions had to proceed to Lahore to file appeals and applications, and to consult with the counsel (Mr. Sinclair) who was employed in the Búriya mortgage suits. It is manifestly impossible for the Deputy Commissioner to attend himself to the *minutiæ* of all but the important suits; and as to the advisability of legal proceedings taken in other cases he must be largely guided by the General Manager and the local legal agent.

The work in the Wards' Department has been by no means diminished since a separate Court of Wards' Report instead of an annual notice in the Revenue Report has been required by the Government, and since budgets for each estate have been required for each financial year. It is probable, moreover, that a Court of Wards Act applicable to this Province will be passed before long; and from what has been seen of the draft Bill, work in the future seems likely to be elaborated considerably. It may be necessary to remodel the Sadar Wards' Office. At

present the clerks in it are mere munshís with an indifferent knowledge of English, and all important letters to higher authority have to be drafted by the Head Clerk of the English Office.

There has been voluminous, but rather ineffectual, correspondence concerning the pay of the Sadar Office in connection with the rate levied by Government under Rule 28 of the present Court of Wards Rules (Punjab Government Resolution No. 1122 of 23rd July 1873). The pay of the clerks of the Sadar Office is distributed proportionately over all the estates which happen to be under the Court. The release of an estate necessitates a re-distribution. Mixed up with this matter of the Government rate is the question of the 2 per cent fee (*haqúk tahsíl*) charged for the official collection of *jágír* income. If the proposed Court of Wards Act is passed all these questions will probably have to be fully gone into again.

The Kalsia estate is the only major one in the district which does not come under the Deputy Commissioner's care in the event of a minority occurring. A Kalsia minor becomes the ward of the Commissioner. The present Sardár has for a long time been such a ward.

The work in the Wards' Department is disappointing. An officer busy with heavy public business which has a prior claim on his attention sees that he could do much in improving estates if he had only time. Unable to spare the time he can only give wards' affairs intermittent attention. It is a marvel how Mr. Gladstone found time to devote so much attention to wards' estates and affairs. Most officers will find themselves only able to generally direct the General Manager, paying close attention to only such affairs as are of permanent interest or financially important. It is practically impossible to conduct agricultural experiments and deal closely with the interior economy of estates. The local Managers residing on the estates are not highly paid, and to conduct any operations which would lead to much money passing through their hands would hardly be advisable. A new well may be sunk here and there, or a *bir* (waste area) may be leased and eventually brought under cultivation, but any large schemes of improvements are beyond a Deputy Commissioner's power.

Still there is consolation in comparing the condition of an estate under the Court with what would be the condition of one free from official control. The *jágír* revenues and the rents in the one case are got steadily in and this is no small matter. Secondly, old debts are steadily paid off and new ones are not contracted.

In the other case, with a minor as head of the family, *jágír* revenues and rents fall into arrears, and interested relations usurp control. Not a penny of old debts is paid off, and further encumbrances are added to satisfy the desire of greedy relations for ready cash. Eventually the minor reaches majority heavily involved, with accounts in disorder, decrees of all kinds against him and with encumbrances burdening his landed interests.

The history of the Court of Wards work in Umballa is far from discreditable to officers busy in a hundred other ways. Time after time have heavily indebted estates come under the Court, and time after time have the creditors been paid off leaving the ward free to start life on majority with a good balance at his credit. But it is disappointing to find the same estate come shortly again under Court as heavily indebted again. The case of the brothers Shamshere Singh and Guláb Singh, of Rámgarh, is an example of this disappointment. These wards were released about 1894 with a clean sheet. Both died in 1897, one leaving an infant son who inherited the whole estate. The estate came under the Court again, indebted to the extent of many thousands of rupees.

The Ráipur estate was pulled out of a quagmire of debt, and there are many other instances.

It is refreshing to deal with estates like Bhareli and Manauli which are well-to-do. Sardár Tára Singh, of Bhareli, who died about 1896, was a business-like man, who made the most of his opportunities with land and live-stock. His son, a likely boy, is placed at the Aitchison College. Much of the large surplus income of this estate has been invested in Government securities.

The Manauli estate owing to long minorities is prosperous. Investments in Government securities have been made, and land has been purchased. The estate also derives the interest from the large loan to Búriya.

The Financial Commissioner, while approving of many purchases of Government paper, has often signified a preference for investments in land. Doubtless these are preferable to this extent that a careless ward on release may sell out his stock and squander all that has been saved for him. But with all the will in the world to invest in land a Deputy Commissioner may well hesitate at frequently undertaking the difficult business of a land agent.

Land has to be found in a situation contiguous and convenient, and there are all the difficulties of appraisement of value and the drawing up of deeds in the case of a purchase,

while in the case of an investment secured by a mortgage the negotiations and the terms of deeds are matters of more difficulty still. It is true that the General Manager can undertake the preliminary negotiations and give his opinion, but the final responsibility rests with the Deputy Commissioner. That officer unable to give undivided time to the questions at issue; to inspect the land, or to make sure of all the necessary legal precautions being taken may well be excused if, except in occasional cases, he shrinks from the responsibilities of a land agent.

CHAPTER XIII.

The Buriya Mortgages.

The pecuniary transactions between Búriya and Manauli deserve some mention. Sardár Jiwan Singh, C.I.E., of Búriya (grandfather of the present minor Sardár) was declared unfitted to manage his estate about the year 1889. His affairs were hopelessly involved. The then Deputy Commissioner (Mr. Gladstone) ascertained the extent of the liabilities and then effected a composition with the principal creditors, mostly *baniás* of Jagádhri, who had claims against the estate secured by deeds, decrees and mortgages. When minor claims were settled there remained one large money decree for about Rs. 40,000 held by Zahru Mal and Siwai Rám, and a large debt due to Baldeo Dás and others secured by a mortgage of the proprietary lands of the estate amounting in area to about 4,000 acres. The claims which these people had succeeded in making good against the estate before accounts were audited, were considered exaggerated and fictitious in amount, owing to manipulation of accounts in the past. Prosecution for fraud was considered simultaneously with the steps towards a composition, and influenced probably as much by fear of the consequences of a prosecution as by Mr. Gladstone's personal ascendency, the creditors signed papers accepting 4 annas in the rupee in full satisfaction of claim.

To pay off the liabilities, Mr. Gladstone borrowed about Rs. 1,70,000 from the Manauli estate, then under the Court of Wards, during the minority of Sardár Autár Singh. Zahru Mal and Siwai Rám and Baldeo Dás and his partners were paid off, and the mortgage lien held by the latter over the proprietary lands was redeemed The 4,000 odd acres were then hypothecated to Manauli.

This was all well and good for the time being ; but when Mr. Gladstone proceeded to England in 1893, the *baniás* abovenamed handed into his railway carriage disavowals of the composition, which remained for his successor to dispose of.

After hesitation and delay, Baldeo Dás went into Court with a test case claiming return of the mortgage deed of only one village (Basantpur) or discharge of the lien in full ; and Zahru Mal and Siwai Rám applied to take out execution of the balance (about Rs. 30,000) of their original money decree for about Rs. 40,000.

These cases dragged on for several years, the number of witnesses examined being extraordinary. The main issue framed was whether undue influence was or was not used in effecting the

composition. Moreover, in Zahru Mal's case, it was held by the Courts that as the composition had not been attested in Court it could not stand in the way of execution proceedings, and such would have proceeded, had not a fresh suit been filed for cancellation of the decree *in toto.*

The counsel (Mr. Sinclair) employed to represent Búriya and Manauli was eventually appointed sole arbitrator by consent of parties in both cases. At the end of 1897, Baldeo Dás withdrew his claim concerning Basantpur and all other claims whatever in consideration for a lump sum of about Rs. 25,000.

In March 1898 Zahru Mal and Siwai Rám accepted Rs. 9,000 in full satisfaction of all claim under the decree and all other claims, if any.

The Financial Commissioner's sanction was obtained to the borrowing of these sums from the Manauli estate (now under the Court of Wards during the minority of Sardár Ragbír Singh).

Thus, upon the security of the 4,029 acres of proprietary land in 15 villages, Rs. 2,04,000 will have been borrowed by Búriya from Manauli.

The first sum of Rs. 1,70,000 had been reduced to Rs. 1,47,000 by the end of 1897. The other two sums can be regarded as temporary loans.

Of the sum of Rs. 25,000, Rs. 13,000 odd were borrowed on the 1st January 1898, and this amount was immediately repaid out of the Búriya Kharíf (1897) income. The balance of Rs. 11,000 odd was borrowed on the 31st March 1898 and repayment of it out of the Rabi (1898) income was ordered.

The third sum of Rs. 9,000 is payable to Zahru Mal by the 15th July 1898. It should be repaid to Manauli, if not out of the rabi income at any rate out of the kharíf income of 1898.

These temporary loans being adjusted, Búriya will owe Manauli about Rs. 1,40,000. The security is sufficient. The loan bears Manauli interest at 6 per cent. per annum. The estimated annual savings from the Búriya estate amount to about Rs. 18,000. Thus at any rate before either of the estates is released from the Court of Wards, it is possible that the debt may be paid off. At present both the wards are children.

The Rája of Farídkot, whose second son married a daughter of the Búriya house, offered (1897) to liquidate the Manauli debt, provided that he was entrusted with the management of the Búriya estate. The offer indirectly came to the notice of Government, but the Rája was not encouraged to move further in the matter.

CHAPTER XIV.

The Kotaha Land Purchase.

The Mír of Kotaha is jágírdár of about 17 villages in the plains in the pargana Kotaha below Morni, and of almost all the villages in the Morni Hill tract. *Jágír* rights were conferred on the family after the Gurkha War in 1814 for services rendered. In the famine of 1860-61, the proprietors of the villages in the plains under the pressure of circumstances were prepared to sell their *biswedári* rights for cash. The then Mír therefore was able to acquire proprietary right in addition to his *jágír* right, either in whole or part, in ten of the villages in the plains. The villagers at first sold their rights without reservation but the local authorities were in doubt as to whether they should not intervene. The matter was referred and the then Controlling Revenue Authority considered that so far from intervention being necessary it was likely that the thriftless villagers would be better off in the future under a strong landlord on a permanent system of *batái* rent. But one result of the reference was that occupancy rights to the *ex*-proprietors were stipulated for and were conceded in Court by mouth of the Mír's agent. Effect to the concession was given in the files regarding the sale and later in the settlement record of 1887.

In 1864 occurred the complications which led to the grandfather of the present Mír being banished from the district. He had already previously been under suspicion in connection with events of 1857-58 and his grandson, Bákar Ali Khan, had already settled in the Bulandshahr district, N. W. P. Orders of 1876 cancelled the orders of banishment and restored the *jágír* rights which had been attached. These orders did not have any reference to the present Mír, he being not directly concerned with his grandfather's trouble. But Mír Bákar Ali Khan having settled in Bulandshahr where he had inherited a large property, never returned to reside in this district, which is a misfortune, as this gentleman, who has received the title of C.I.E. for services across the Jumna, is one of the most pleasing of native gentlemen to meet. His visits are few and far between and his *jágír* is the sole one in the district, of major *jágírs*, managed by a non-resident jágírdár. The Mír manages through a duly appointed agent who represents him in all matters.

The reputation which the Mír bears is that of a good landlord and jágírdár, and what agitation there was made recently by the *ex*-proprietors of some of the villages in the plains was most

probably largely due to a change of agents. Mr. Gladstone, who was dissatisfied with the agent he had dealings with, particularly about forest matters, persuaded the Mír to depose him and appoint another who has been in charge up to date (1898).

In 1895 an agitation was displayed by some *ex*-proprietors of the villages in the plains which remained persistent for no very clear reason. It was believed that they were dissatisfied with cases of ejectment from *banjar* lands broken up after the sale of 1860-61, but they laid far more stress on an alleged right to fell timber for building purposes and to graze cattle in the Morni forests. The Financial Commissioner, when on tour in 1896, was waylaid by a deputation of malcontents. An Assistant Commissioner (Mr. Hailey) was detailed to investigate and report on the occupancy right question. His report is in a separate book file and was disposed of by letter No. 427, dated 23rd January 1897, from the Financial Commissioner's Office to the Commissioner. The report is distinctly to the Mír's credit as a landlord. It was found that possessions held by the *ex*-proprietors have continued to them individual by individual in a singularly undisturbed way from the time of sale up to date. The only point of difference had occurred about *banjar* land. *Ex*-proprietors breaking up *banjar* had been ready to claim occupancy-rights in the fresh fields. This claim had been resisted by the Mír's agents and suits for ejectment had been brought with the express view of preventing any such rights being established.

The correspondence following the Assistant Commissioner's report shows that it was considered that occupancy rights were only secured to the vendors in such areas as were under cultivation at the time of sale. Special rates of *bátái* were also secured for these lands, but these special rates are not considered by the Mír's agents to apply to lands broken up in subsequent years.

But it was not concerning occupancy rights that Sondha and others of Mauza Rehna persisted in agitating. They sent in petitions wholesale concerning timber and grazing, resting their case on a deed of 1861. No mention of this deed was made in the Settlement Record of 1887, and as far as preservation of forests is concerned license to villages in the plains to cut timber and graze cattle in the Morni tract is a mischievous concession. Explanatory reports were sent to Government concerning the petitions to the effect that according to settlement records the complaining parties had no title to the license they claimed.

However Sondha and others went into the Civil Court and the Divisional Judge decided on appeal (No. 511, dated 12th March 1897, of 1896) that the men of Mauza Rehna had the right to take

without payment from the Morni forests firewood, grass, thatching grass, charcoal, wood for beams roofs and ploughs, &c. ; and also the right to graze cattle up to a certain limit. An appeal by the Mír to the Chief Court was contemplated at the time but the result, if it was lodged, has not been communicated up to date (1898).

The proposals of 1888 towards constituting reserved forests in the Morni tract may, although they were abandoned, have partly led to the agitation, owing to some kind of restrictions imposed.

Be this as it may, a few more civil decisions like that of 1896, would greatly hamper re-afforestation schemes in this tract in the future.

CHAPTER XV.

Religious Celebrations.

The celebrations which demand administrative attention are the—

Id-uz-zuha (Baqra Id).
Muharram.
Báwandwádshi.

It may, however, be said at the outset that though there is sometimes a fuss on one or other of these occasions in some town or other, nothing serious has actually happened or is likely to happen, if merely ordinary precautions are taken. Physical contests are not popular in the district. Even among the zemíndárs affrays with *láthís* in which heads get broken are extremely unusual, the district differing much in this respect from districts Trans-Sutlej. Contests by petition are much more favoured. This latter class of contest is prosecuted *ad nauseum* in the district. A few days previous to such celebrations as the above one party in some town or other may be expected to petition the Deputy Commissioner, asseverating that the other party contemplates some observance novel and exasperating which will provoke a breach of the peace. The other party then responds by counter-petitions. These petitions are intended to fluster the authorities, it being the hope of the first party that the Deputy Commissioner will feel anxiety, order down a body of police, and issue some order repressive of the observance in question, which order will be quoted as a precedent on all future occasions. There are vernacular files containing dozens of such emergency orders passed from time to time since the fifties. Each sect has copies of those best suited to its case which are attached in support of petitions. Did a District Officer pay absolute attention to all these orders of the past he would be fairly bewildered. They were provisional orders passed *ex tempore* to meet certain combinations or sets of circumstances, and seeing how skilfully the sects arrange their moves and lay traps for a new Deputy Commissioner it is not much wonder that officers while observing the broad lines of Government policy, should continue to be opportunists.in such matters. They have to checkmate party moves of a plausible but underhand kind, and the presumed ignorance of the Deputy Commissioner of the history of the past is made the most of. These manœuvres though they need give small cause for anxiety, give a good deal of trouble to a new officer not

unseldom ; and it is certain, if one sect gains any new advantage over the other on any occasion, that retaliation on the next opportunity will follow. Thus the petitions and party moves, however wearisome they may often be, require to be ingeniously treated and checkmated. But it can always be borne in mind that unless something completely abnormal were to happen, there is no chance of physical conflict or rioting of any kind.

It will be convenient to notice the celebrations above mentioned town by town ; but it may first be laid down as a maxim important to remember that intramural slaughter even for purposes of religious celebration is not a practice claimable by any town in the district.

Id-uz-zuha.

Umballa City.

The only recorded difficulty about sacrificial cattle on this *Id* which called for official intervention occurred in 1885. In that year the *Id* and the Báwandwádshi occurred simultaneously. This no doubt was the salient cause of the difficulty, and it is interesting to observe that the Báwandwádshi had not previously been locally celebrated in processional form till about that year.

[There is a coincidence between the introduction of this celebration in full processional form and the up-springing of the spirit of rivalry between the two great religious creeds in the country which became generally remarkable about 1885. Both Adhoa and Shahabad in more recent years made great efforts to introduce the celebration with full pomp and ceremony].

The coincidence of dates in 1885 caused a route to be prescribed for the bringing in of sacrificial meat, in order that there might be no clash between it and the route taken by the Hindu procession. Were the dates of the two festivals to become coincident again some special executive arrangements might be called for ; but with the now placid relations existing between the Hindús and Muhammadans in Umballa city no difficulty is experienced in ordinary celebrations of the Id-uz-zuha. The route by which sacrificial meat is brought into the town is an inoffensive one passing mainly only near Muhammadan domiciles in a Muhammadan *mahalla*.

Jagádhri.

At Jagádhri there has at times been considerable fuss on the occasion of the Id-uz-zuha. Rái Singh, of Búriya, who rebuilt this town in 1783, encouraged a community of *baniás* from across

the Jumna to settle therein ; and he gave such guarantees against caste profanation that at one time fish could not be overtly brought into the place. Naturally, therefore, evidences of the sacrifice of kine and of the importation of sacrificial meat are regarded with great jealousy up to the present time. The Muhammadans are inclined on the other hand to throw off the fetters of custom and act more openly on the day of the *Id*. But the open exodus from the town of kine destined for sacrifice and the open bringing in of the sacrificial meat after sacrifice cause such perturbation that a definite understanding has had to be arrived at. The slaughter ground is at the little village of Sugh, a good four miles from Jagádhri on the road to the canal bridge at Amádalpur. This has for generations been the recognised slaughter ground for all neat cattle. The existing arrangements are that the animals shall be taken out of the town on the eve of the *Id* between sunset and sunrise, the meat being brought in only after dusk next day.

Sádhaura.

Here the Id-uz-zuha sacrifices do not cause any commotion, owing, no doubt, to a more fortunate distribution of population as far as sects are concerned.

THE MUHARRAM.

Strained relations have occurred between the Sunnís and Shiáhs during this celebration, both at Umballa city and at Sádhaura, and these schismatic feelings are much more likely to give trouble than any indications of Hindu impatience at the time of the Muharram.

But the quarrels between the Sunnís and Shiáhs at Umballa subsided about the year 1880, and beyond an occasional flicker now and then have shown no sign of revival. Sádhaura, on the other hand, was set by the ears in 1896 at the time of the Muharram. The Shiáhs enlisted a learned divine to appear in the town as a champion of the Shiáh tenets. This preacher offered to meet any Sunni doctor of divinity in argument, and failing to meet his match had printed placards published and stuck up which caused much commotion. Security was taken from him and others. A perusal of the magisterial order passed in the case would be useful were similar difficulties to occur again.

For the rest there is of course the usual need to attend to the numbers of the *táziás* and the routes to be taken. A printed note on this subject will be found in Mr. Maynard's No. $\frac{87}{1064}$ M (c), dated 11th October 1894, to the Commissioner.

The Bawandwadshi.

This ceremonial is, I believe, not in vogue in the Punjab Proper. For an account of the origin of the festival see foot-note to this chapter. It is only celebrated in this district in the towns of Umballa and Jagádhri. In Umballa, too, it only sprung into notice in full processional form about 1885 or 1886. Probably it was duly celebrated in Jagádhri before then, as Jagádhri contains a number of *bania* immigrants from the North-Western Provinces where the ceremonial is probably much more common. Umballa very possibly adopted the ceremonial as a set-off against Muhammadan ceremonials ; for it was in about 1885 that a spirit of rivalry first began to display itself in many places.

This spirit was manifested in the attempts which were made later by Shahabad and then Adhoa to adopt a Báwandwádshi celebration in full processional form ; but licenses for processions were refused and all but private celebration disallowed.

In trying to introduce what would have been a complete novelty, both these towns tried to force the hand of the Deputy Commissioner by pleading that the observance had always been in force, and that any police interference would be a gross violation of the religious liberty of the subject. Such representations are moves a Deputy Commissioner has to be on his guard against. When made by wire at the last moment they are considered especially likely to be successful. It is hoped that, there being no time for enquiry, a wire will be sent to the local police not to interfere and that thus a valuable precedent will be gained.

The celebration was not permitted in either Shahabad or Adhoa and attempts at its introduction into other towns should be resisted as innovatory. Novel celebrations inevitably lead to retaliatory moves by the other sect.

Since the difficulty in 1885, when the Báwandwádshi and Id-uz-zuha fell on the same day, there has been no difficulty worth mentioning either in Umballa or Jagádhri about the Báwandwádshi; nor need there be in the future unless of course dates clash again.

The *Báwandwadshi* is the festival of Báwan, which was the name taken by the Deity in his fifteenth incarnation, according to Hindu creed. The date of the Deity's appearance or birth as Báwan was the twelfth (Dwádshi) of Bhádon (September). The festival therefore occurs on this fixed date. The appearance of the Deity on earth in different incarnations to exterminate tyrants and save his worshippers (*bhagats*) being one of the tenets of the orthodox Hindu religion, the Deity is credited with having appeared under the various names of Sant Kumár, Nar Naráin, Kapl Deoji, Báwan, Hans, Ráma and others, and lastly for the twenty-third time under the name of Krishen.

"*Id-uz-zaha*" or "*Baqra Id*" translated from the Arabic, signifies "The Jubilee of Sacrifice" or "Kine Jubilee": spoken of in Hindustáni as the "*Baqra Id*," it becomes classed as the "Festival of the Goat." There are two different Muhammadan traditions as to the origin of the festival. It is held on the tenth of the month Zil-hijja, the last month of the Muhammadan year when the *hajj* period occurs. Leading Islámic books hold the festival to be commemorative of Abraham's readiness to slay his son (Isaac according

to the Shiahs and Ishmael according to the Sunnís but unnamed in the Qorán) at the instance of the Almighty. As the animal sacrifice was accepted instead of the human in the Hebrew scriptures, so animal sacrifices are in vogue to this day at the time when Abraham's son is believed to have been spared. Sheep, goats, camels and cows are acceptable sacrifices at their homes according to each believer's degree in life, from those who cannot make the pilgrimage to Mecca to perform the ceremony. Seven persons may join in the sacrifice of a camel or a cow while a goat or sheep can only be sacrificed by one person. The sacrifice is only binding on the well-to-do, the poor being exempt.

The second tradition concerns the spot on which Adam after his expulsion from Paradise is believed to have first worshipped in a tent sent down from heaven. Seth put over the spot a structure of clay and stone which was destroyed by the Deluge. Abraham and Ishmael raised over the spot the first square temple (Kaaba) which in modern form stands within the great mosque at Mecca. The pilgrims coming to the holy place made offerings in silver and live-stock to Abraham and Ishmael in token of gratitude. When the animals presented every year grew excessive in number Abraham received a divine order to slaughter them and provide flesh for the pilgrims.

CHAPTER XVI.

SECTARIAN SOCIETIES.

There are branches of several sectarian societies in the district, but of these the Arya Samáj is by far the most active.

The views of the religious reformer, Swámi Dayanand Saraswati, made public about 1878, and leading as they did to the foundation of a new School of Divinity, seem, judging from the number of branches of the Arya Samáj opened in recent years, to have taken considerable hold upon the educated Hindús in this district as elsewhere.

The brief account of the origin of the societies calling themselves Aryan, given in a foot-note to this chapter, may not be out of place. It is sufficient here to say that the Arya Samáj is compared with other societies of a sectarian kind conspicuously active in Umballa. Branches now exist in Umballa city, Jagádhri, Rúpar, Kharar, Mustafabad and perhaps Búriya. A pretentious hall of congregation has been quite recently (1897) built at Rúpar, and the erection of the fine Hindu hall in Umballa city out of subscribed funds, accomplished almost as recently, was doubtless due in greater part to the energy of members of the Arya Samáj; although this hall, as its name indicates, is open as a meeting-room for Hindu assemblies of any denomination.

The avowed and less definite objects of the Arya Samáj as a central body being fairly well understood, the opening of new branches in different places would be a matter of small concern to administrative officers if the success or activity of one sect did not create jealousy in others; and did not the Aryans, like most other sects, favour the self-advertisement gained by celebrations in processional form.

The establishment of a branch Samáj at Mustafabad caused a stir; and an annual commemorative celebration in processional form coupled with the singing of hymns was distinctly objected to. Innovations of this kind were treated in the same way as the attempts to initiate processional celebrations of the Báwandwádshi at Shahabad and Adhoa.

On one occasion (1896) both the Aryans of Umballa city and the Native Christian community of the district [assembled at the city in an annual mass meeting (*mela*)] put in on the same day applications for licenses to go in procession through the town using music and singing hymns. To avoid the risk of the

processions becoming counter-demonstrations both licenses had to be refused.

There have been no objections raised to the movements of the branches of the Samáj in Rúpar, Kharar and Jagádhri.

The educational efforts of the Samáj have been marked by the founding (in 1898) of an Anglo-Vedic School in Umballa city, public subscriptions having provided a starting fund. The fees of the school were purposely fixed very low so as if possible to attract scholars away from the Municipal Board School. Though opened with a flourish there were early signs that the school was not so firmly established as it's supporters could have wished.

The society in opposition to the Arya Samáj, known as the Sanátan Dharm Sabha, has branches in the district, but they are not ordinarily nearly so active as the branches of the Arya Samáj. There are said to be established branches only in Jagádhri and Umballa city, and while the latter is classed as a recent one without authority and prestige the former is generally in a state of quiescence except when stimulated into awakening by peripatetic lecturers. There was, however, in April 1898 an unusually demonstrative display of enthusiasm by adherents of this Sabha in Rúpar town. There was a procession with music, and delegates came from other districts. Speeches were made in the interests of the Sabha and return speeches were made in the Aryan hall. Only Aryan activity is generally observable in Rúpar and perhaps this demonstration of the other party was induced by the schism or split in the Arya Samáj that has lately been engaging the attention of the native press.

"The Gaur Sabha" is a new society originated, it is believed, by a movement started in Simla in 1896.

The title of "*Gaur*" is a comprehensive one, as according to the standard book on "Hindu Castes and Sects," written by Jogendra Náth Bhattacharya, M. A., D.L., the Brahmans of India divide themselves in two main classes, called the Panch Gaur and the Panch Dravira, the five sub-classes of each of the two main classes consisting of the Brahmans who have their habitat in Northern and Southern India, respectively. The society is evidently conservative, and though it may be in sympathy with the Sanátan Dharm Sabha, must be in opposition to the Arya Samáj in the matter of religious doctrine.

The society held its inaugural meeting at Thánesar in 1896, when it discussed social and religious questions, and also at the instance of the Deputy Commissioner, the possibility of re-excavat-

ing and restoring by means of widespread public subscription the celebrated Kurukshetr lake. The society has no residential branches at present, but for its second seat of congregation in 1897 it selected Umballa city.

Of the Singh Sabha there are branches in Umballa city and Umballa cantonments. The village of Panjokhra near Umballa city contains a peculiarly patriotic Sikh community. The meetings in cantonments also occur with great regularity at short intervals. The practical objects of the society are doubtless to maintain Sikh unity by the reading of the scriptures in meeting and by discouraging neglect of Sikh baptism; and to increase Sikh prestige by gaining fresh acceptances of the *pahal*.

There is a branch of the Anjuman Islámia with an honorary secretary establishad in Umballa city. Its object of bettering the condition of the Muhammadan community and of furthering its social, political, and moral interests, are unostentatiously pursued.

There was a Hindu Society started about 1882 in Umballa city with the title of "Anjuman Rifa-i-am" which was converted into "Abdes Sabha," and finally, about 1886, into "Hindu Sabha." That this society exists in any advertised form at present (1898) does not seem to be the case; but general meetings of Hindús in the Hindu hall, lately constructed, would probably correspond with any such *sabha* as originally actually existed.

As has been said above, the meetings and discussions of sectarian societies would give an administrative officer little concern were not such often coupled with demonstrative processions in which music and the singing of hymns, &c., play a part. Such processions create a spirit of rivalry and at times towns bid fair to be treated as mere arenas for demonstrations and counter-demonstrations. The disquiet caused in the towns and the necessity occasioned for police supervision render these demonstrations objectionable from an administrative point of view.

The following is the substance of a brief note descriptive of the origin of the Arya Samáj and Sanátan Dharm Sabha furnished by Lála Bishambar Diál, Extra Assistant Commissioner :—

After the people of the great Aryan stock deserted their original country of Aryawarta situated in Central Persia (or Central Asia) one branch went west towards Europe and the other migrated to Hindustán and settled there creating the population now called Hindu. The Vedas were apparently at that time the only books considered of inspired origin and thus formed the sole scriptures of the people. As time advanced leaders of religious thought compiled other books eventually considered sacred and named "The Shástras." Through the teaching of the Brahmans the Shástras became the prominent books of divinity while the Vedas became more and more lost sight of. The majority of the Hindús of the present day follow the teachings of the Brahmans as taught from the Shástras. In about 1878 Swámi Dayanand Saraswati by expounding his views that the religion of the day was not in sufficient accord with the Vedas led to the establishment of the Arya Samáj which has the propagation of these views at heart.

A controversy set in between the reformers and the mass of Hindús anxious to uphold what they considered the orthodox religion. Both sides equally honoured the Vedas but disagreed in the interpretation of Vedic texts; but while the new school was inclined to consider the Shástras apocryphal and unreconcilable with the spirit of the Vedas, the old school considered them unimpeachable. This schism created the two schools which incline either to the tenets of the Arya Samáj or hold fast to the " ancient belief " (Sanátan Dharm).

The societies differ on such religious questions as the appearance of the Deity on earth by means of incarnation ; the *sharádh* ceremony ; and the worship of images (*múrti*).

And in social matters they disagree concerning child marriage and the re-marriage of widows ; the Aryans holding that the Vedas prescribe the one and permit the other, whatever present feeling on the subject may be.

But both societies aim at the proper interpretation of and more general knowledge of the Vedas and the diffusion of Sanskrit.

SINGH SABHA.

The following note concerning the origin of this *sabha*, discovered amongst papers written in 1887, is given for what it is worth :—

" The local Singh Sabha in Umballa city was started in about 1886.

" The Singh Sabha of which there are 92 branches was founded about 1884 by one Nihál Singh, Thánadár of Kalsia, on the strength of a dream in which Guru Gobind Singh (the tenth Guru who gave the warlike affix of lion to the names of all Sikhs), appeared to him and said " You are a descendant of mine. I raised the Sikh power 40 years too soon. Had it risen now it would have remained firm. Do you now found the Sikh Sabha." Nihál Singh called a meeting of Sikhs in Chachrauli and after telling his dream announced that he would found the Sing Sabha."

CHAPTER XVII.

KINE SLAUGHTER AND MEAT SHOPS.

Questions of kine slaughter seldom reach the acute stage except on the occasion of the Id-uz-zuha. This recurring festival no doubt attracts particular attention to the subject: for by it the Hindús are reminded every year that Islámic mandate enjoins the slaughter in sacrifice of certain animals, among which kine are numbered as acceptable offerings.

In ordinary times, beyond occasional complaints that slaughter has taken place in the open in some village, or that meat is brought into towns from the slaughter-houses without sufficient precautions to conceal it being taken, or that butchers' shops are not sufficiently provided with *pardahs*, or that cattle are driven to the slaughter-house too publicly, no questions of any great difficulty ordinarily arise.

As has been shown in another chapter (on Religious Celebrations) intra-mural sacrifice is not allowable even at the time of the Id-uz-zuha, and thus intra-mural slaughter in ordinary times is far more out of the question.

The towns which need be considered in this chapter are Umballa, Jagádhri, Sádhaura, Kharar, Rúpar, and Morinda.

In Umballa the slaughter of kine was not provided for extramurally till 1854 when a place for slaughter was judicially granted, and though the sale of meat was prohibited except at this place for a period, by the year 1880 shops for the sale of this meat had been opened in the Muhammadan quarter. (Shops for the sale of the flesh of sheep and goats had been opened, after altercation on the subject, in the sixties).

There is now one Muhammadan slaughter-house outside municipal limits within the southern angle formed by the Grand Trunk Road and the approach road to Dhúlkot Railway Station. This is controlled by the municipality, some Muhammadan official being appointed for the inspection of animals and collection of fees.

(There is a separate slaughter-house for goats or sheep within municipal limits, near the Moree Gate; some other official, a Muhammadan or Sikh, is generally appointed to inspect and manage here).

The rules regarding the licensing of meat shops published under *Punjab Gazette* Notification No. 819, dated 15th July 1890, were not made public so widely as they should have been.

It was stated in 1894 that there were 14 beef shops and 13 mutton shops in Umballa city, all confined to quarters occupied by Muhammadans and Chamárs, but it is probable that there are more now, the necessity for applying for a license never having been fully realised. In the last quarter of 1897 translations of the rules were sent to the police stations in Umballa city and at Kharar, with instructions for them to be impressed upon the people concerned, and orders that the opening of any new unlicensed shop should be immediately reported.

Unless licensed the shops are likely to increase to an unnecessary number and give offence. As many of the shops could, under the rules, be closed at the discretion of the Deputy Commissioner, it is not difficult to insist on screens being used and shops being kept in decent order.

An application for the establishment of a slaughter-house for *jhatka* meat was refused by the Deputy Commissioner in 1887, as he did not consider the application was made so much because inconvenience was felt as from sectarian motives. Applications were again made in 1894 and 1897. Objections were at once put in by opposite sects although there could hardly be any real objection to such an institution. But as the Sikh community in Umballa city is a very small one it is doubtful whether the allotment of municipal funds for the erection and maintenance of a special slaughter-house for this community is justifiable.

Jagadhri.

Within the neighbourhood of the municipal limits of Jagádhri there is no kine slaughter-house. The arrangements for slaughter are special. There is a recognised slaughter-ground at the little village of Sugh which stands four miles from Jagádhri on the side of the road leading from Jagádhri to the bridge over the Western Jumna Canal at Amádalpur.

(There is a slaughter-house for sheep and goats within or just outside municipal limits which is controlled by the municipality, some Muhammadan official generally being appointed to inspect and manage. Flesh is sold here and the shop is leased to bidders).

There is no beef shop in the town, people consuming this meat being expected to bring it in privately from Sugh, or consume it outside municipal limits.

(There is one intra-mural mutton shop in the Muhammadan quarter).

SADHAURA.

Kine questions and shop questions have given no trouble in this town owing probably to the predominating parties being composed of Muhammadans and Sikhs. There is an enclosure a little way outside the town in which slaughter takes place.

In 1884, there were reported to be six beef shops and seven shops for the sales of goats' and sheep's flesh inside the town, and all in the Muhammadan quarter.

KHARAR.

Here, as in Rúpar, slaughter and shop arrangements require to be brought under better control.

There is no municipality at Kharar, and the Rúpar Municipal Committee has preferred to shut its eyes to the existence of the slaughter-ground outside the town, exerting little or no control over it.

At Kharar there is a slaughter-enclosure for neat cattle out in the open fields about three-fourths of a mile to the north of the town. Some *kasáís* hailing from Saháranpur are domiciled beside it. In 1897 the enclosure walls were put in good order by the *kasáís* themselves under pressure from the authorities. There is a recognised track for the bringing-in of meat to the Muhammadan *mahalla* which is on the skirts of the town under the Sikh fort. The meat is expected to be properly concealed. In this *mahalla* there are several beef shops. Licenses for seven were issued in 1898. The deposit of bones and offal on the open space outside the *mahalla* and under the walls of the Sikh fort is forbidden. Complaints by the Sikh Sardárs have been made often since perhaps the fifties. All bones and refuse are required to be periodically conveyed back to the slaughter-house for deposit there. The threat of confiscation of licenses is generally sufficient to make the *kasáís* and shop-keepers conform to what is required of them.

The tanners in Kharar occupy a small *májri* on the extreme skirts of the town and on the side of the Umballa-Kharar road. Their occupation need give no offence to the townspeople as the *májri* is actually a distant petty suburb and the occupation of tanning is carried on without any publicity.

RUPAR.

Here there is a slaughter-ground at a considerable distance from the town limits. It is not properly controlled as noticed above. The Subdivisional Officer has lately (1897) reported that the walls of the original enclosure are neglected and that slaughter

takes place without any regard to sanitation and without any inspection of animals being arranged for. The understanding seems to be that as long as slaughter is not paraded but confined to this particular spot, the people addicted to this occupation may do as they please without municipal interference The matter will have to be looked into some day, but ordinarily it seems better to let these questions themselves come slowly to a head rather than for a District Officer to show an anxiety to pursue them of his own motion. In the latter case they often assume a quite unnecessary importance.

MORINDA.

In this townlet there have been no difficulties about slaughter nor objections to beef shops calling for much attention. There is a strong Muhammadan Rájpút community here. At the same time there has been a tendency to open an unnecessary number of meat shops and one or two have been officially closed. The closures led to a dispute or two amongst the *kasáis* themselves, and one or two *kasái* families who considered themselves injured have repeatedly petitioned to be allowed to re-open.

CHAPTER XVIII.

The Water-works.

The Water-works were opened in 1895 by Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick. They were named "The Gladstone Water-works" in honor of the District Officer who by his energy succeeded in obtaining a scientific water-supply for the town. The compliment was no empty one, and the name should be remembered with feelings of gratitude for advantages conferred, as no town could have been more distressed for want of drinking water than Umballa was before the Works came into existence.

The diversion of a branch of the Tángri which had once run near the town had disturbed the water-levels. Many intra-mural wells went dry when most needed, and water pots had to be brought in on drays from wells outside.

In one way and another Mr. Gladstone managed to get about Rs. 1,17,000 collected, and to the total sum eventually available, Government added about a lakh. The Works were then put in hand. But had it not been for Mr. Gladstone's energy in organising public subscriptions in the first instance, the scheme would not have come to fruition.

There is a recorded list of all the principal subscribers who were honoured either with public mention or the bestowal of *khillats* at the opening ceremony.

The supply is derived from a line of twenty wells situated about eight miles from the town on the right bank of the Tángri bed. The wells are in proximity to the Head-works of the cantonments water-supply, but there is no connection whatever between the two systems.

The city Head-works stand in an area sequestrated from the village of Handesra in Patiála territory, for which area an annual quit-rent has to be paid.

The main pipe runs under open country for some distance and then strikes the Panjokhra road, somewhere near Panjokhra passing under this road the rest of the distance into the city.

Pumps are the motive power of supply, but there is an auxiliary gravitation system. If the water-level is sufficiently high, gravitation can supply the flow between whiles and the pumps can rest. This special feature was introduced into the scheme by Mr. Goument, the able Engineer who was selected for the execution of the Works.

takes place without any regard to sanitation and without any inspection of animals being arranged for. The understanding seems to be that as long as slaughter is not paraded but confined to this particular spot, the people addicted to this occupation may do as they please without municipal interference The matter will have to be looked into some day, but ordinarily it seems better to let these questions themselves come slowly to a head rather than for a District Officer to show an anxiety to pursue them of his own motion. In the latter case they often assume a quite unnecessary importance.

Morinda.

In this townlet there have been no difficulties about slaughter nor objections to beef shops calling for much attention. There is a strong Muhammadan Rájpút community here. At the same time there has been a tendency to open an unnecessary number of meat shops and one or two have been officially closed. The closures led to a dispute or two amongst the *kasáís* themselves, and one or two *kasái* families who considered themselves injured have repeatedly petitioned to be allowed to re-open.

CHAPTER XVIII.

The Water-works.

The Water-works were opened in 1895 by Sir Dennis Fitzpatrick. They were named "The Gladstone Water-works" in honor of the District Officer who by his energy succeeded in obtaining a scientific water-supply for the town. The compliment was no empty one, and the name should be remembered with feelings of gratitude for advantages conferred, as no town could have been more distressed for want of drinking water than Umballa was before the Works came into existence.

The diversion of a branch of the Tángri which had once run near the town had disturbed the water-levels. Many intra-mural wells went dry when most needed, and water pots had to be brought in on drays from wells outside.

In one way and another Mr. Gladstone managed to get about Rs. 1,17,000 collected, and to the total sum eventually available, Government added about a lakh. The Works were then put in hand. But had it not been for Mr. Gladstone's energy in organising public subscriptions in the first instance, the scheme would not have come to fruition.

There is a recorded list of all the principal subscribers who were honoured either with public mention or the bestowal of *khillats* at the opening ceremony.

The supply is derived from a line of twenty wells situated about eight miles from the town on the right bank of the Tángri bed. The wells are in proximity to the Head-works of the cantonments water-supply, but there is no connection whatever between the two systems.

The city Head-works stand in an area sequestrated from the village of Handesra in Patiála territory, for which area an annual quit-rent has to be paid.

The main pipe runs under open country for some distance and then strikes the Panjokhra road, somewhere near Panjokhra passing under this road the rest of the distance into the city.

Pumps are the motive power of supply, but there is an auxiliary gravitation system. If the water-level is sufficiently high, gravitation can supply the flow between whiles and the pumps can rest. This special feature was introduced into the scheme by Mr. Goument, the able Engineer who was selected for the execution of the Works.

At the Handesra Head-works there are two pumping engines (one for use and one held in reserve).

Unfortunately the period following the opening of the Works (the famine season of 1896-97) was one of hard pumping; and the gravitation system had little chance of operating. The water-levels greatly subsided, and now (1898) there has been correspondence about the possible need of ensuring the hot weather supply by means of a feed tank to the main filled by pulsometers Whether the subsidence of the water-levels is entirely due to the unusual period of drought experienced or to some unforeseen character of the water-bearing strata time alone can show. Up to date the wells have not had a fair chance.

In the Local Funds Office will be found a printed Completion Report of the Works by Mr. Goument. This report gives all details and contains an Appendix with maps and plans, which fully illustrate all a District Officer need know of the system.

The Works were designed to supply seven gallons a head to a population of about 27,000 in the city, besides 15,000 gallons to the civil lines and police lines, and 22,500 to the jail. There is also a regular supply furnished to the North-Western Railway City Station.

The Gladstone tower or reservoir holds 220,000 gallons, or one day's supply. With water-levels at the wells permitting, the 8-inch main can deliver 4,000 gallons per hour into the reservoir by gravitation alone. With water-levels very low down it is a case of hard pumping and large consumption of fuel.

When the Works were opened 75 standposts were put on tap in the city. Few, if any, more have been added; though applications have been numerous.

The monthly cost of the establishment when the Works opened was fixed at Rs. 267 according to the following detail:—

	Rs.
Handesra Head-works.	
Mr. Gately, Engine-driver, on Rs. 100 + Rs. 15 horse allowance	115
Four khalásis on Rs. 10 each	40
Two chaukidárs on Rs. 5 each	10
Two line chowkidárs on Rs. 5 each	10
A sweeper on Rs. 5	5
City Staff.	
One mistri on Rs. 40 + Rs. 15 horse allowance ...	55
Four keymen on Rs. 8 each	32
Total	267

This establishment was revised after a short time so as to provide an Assistant Engine-driver; but the total cost remained practically the same.

The cost of maintenance falls on the municipality, Government contributing in proportion to the shares received by the jail, police lines, and railway. There is a printed file about the adjustment of these accounts.

The cost of fuel in times of drought is considerable. Twenty-one maunds of fuel are required to pump 100,000 gallons. The price of fuel cut and stacked at the pumping station was (1895) Rs. 25 per 100 maunds

The management of the engines and of the whole system of supply vests in the Public Works Department, the municipality merely financing the business. The Executive Engineer is therefore the officer in executive control. It is desirable that this arrangement should continue.

It is similarly desirable that the Engine-driver in charge of the Head-works should be a trained man approved by the Public Works Department. There is risk that the Committee will not retain the services of such a good man as they have got, on the pay allowed.

The Deputy Commissioner in 1896 became President of the Municipality. It is expedient that he should be able to deal direct with many questions in connection with the Water-works which arise.

Bye-laws for regulating the assessment of and collection of water-tax were framed and sanctioned by Government. The tax is leviable on all dwelling-houses in the municipality according to annual value. There was great difficulty in collecting this tax at first, and it shows no signs of being punctually collected as yet. House to house collections are made as in cantonments in the case of the house-tax; collectors to recognised circles being appointed. But there have been up to date (1898) always considerable arrears and levy by distress and sale will, as an example, have to be resorted to periodically.

The bad supply during the drought entailing closing hours for standposts and occurring as it did at the time of first imposition of the tax caused much demur.

Considerable pressure in collecting this tax may not unseldom be required if arrears are to be avoided.

The Delhi rules concerning house connections and supplies for special purposes were with small amendment adopted. These do not require the sanction of Government, being merely rules

regarding contract between the municipality and the persons supplied. But small necessity for following the rules has occurred up to the present, as the drought and uncertainty of supply have rendered the Executive Engineer unwilling to advise the extension of house connections or to countenance any abnormal consumption.

The shutting-off of the standposts at fixed periods in the 24 hours caused a good deal of clamour at first, but was eventually sensibly acquiesced in. What caused more trouble and clamour was a system of turning on the taps at half-cock only. Owing to the long delay caused in filling a *gharra* this system led to scrimmages and brawls round the standposts. It should be a rule that when taps are turned on they should be at full-cock even though the "open time" be shorter.

CHAPTER XIX.

Cantonments Lands.

The area within cantonment limits is about 14 square miles. The lands of ten entire villages and parts of seventeen others were sequestrated to make this area. This happened about 1842. Lieutenant Cunningham, Agent to the Governor-General on the then North-Western Frontier, was Compensation Commissioner. His letters are on record in this office. He experienced difficulty in realising the relative landed interests of the different classes—jágírdár, muáfidár, biswedár and occupancy tenant; and without reference to the estimated revenue settled the matter of compensation by employing a board of local munsifs.

There was no out and out purchase. Compensation was awarded under four heads—

(1) an annual *jágír* income to be paid to jágírdárs;

(2) by assignments to jágírdárs of land revenue in other villages;

(3) pensions to expropriated biswedárs;

(4) cash down compensation for present injury in the matter of crops, wells, trees and houses.

It appears that the gross sums agreed upon by the munsifs and Lieutenant Cunningham were—

(1). Pensions and yearly payments to—	Rs.
Jágírdárs	8,128
Muáfidárs	599
Biswedárs	6,143
	14,870
(2). Cash payments	76,543

The award it will be observed was not a final one. It involved pensions and annual payments which have to be made to a crowd of persons, ever increasing in number, at the present day. This system of payment has continued for fifty years. The original payees are now represented by multiplied descendants, of whom some kind of pedigree tables have to be kept. Individual cash dues when they started small have now become absolutely minute by subdivision. The annual payment of the cash compensation is an *onus* which involves an elaborate system of accounts and an annual attestation of representatives. The attestation and payment is effected through the Umballa tahsíl agency.

Questions also arise as to the exact nature of the acquisition. It was doubtless intended to be a permanent acquisition, but the arrangement partakes of the nature of a perpetual lease on an annual quit-rent. Obviously it is desirable to now purchase out the lien of the *ex*-proprietors. In 1853 the Financial Commissioner obtained the sanction of Government to an attempt at commutation by ten years' purchase. The attempt collapsed, the terms not being liberal enough even had there been any tendency to commute displayed. A twenty-years' purchase has recently been suggested. The whole question was not long ago revived mainly through petitions sent up to Government by certain persons of Dudla Khurd, a village which was absorbed in 1842 inside the cantonment area. Many years later these persons were permitted to domicile themselves within cantonment limits upon a waste area of land which the military authorities decided to lease to them for cultivation. After a long period of tenure they were evicted by the Cantonment Committee which got a better bid for the lease, and they petitioned Government about right of occupancy.

In connection with the correspondence which arose about this case (in 1895 and 1896) and with a separate letter from the Commissioner which revived the question of commutation, Mr. Hailey, Assistant Commissioner, was detailed to collect all extant materials for a history of the acquisition of cantonment lands. His report was printed at the Government Press and will be found in a separate book file in the office. The report shows all the questions which require present decision. The report was submitted to the Commissioner, and that officer forwarded it to the Junior Secretary to Government with reference to his No. 338, dated 10th October 1895. The whole matter has therefore been before Government.

It has also been considered in the Financial Commissioner's Office, and in May 1897 the Deputy Commissioner was directed to ascertain what proportion of compensation-holders would be willing to compound at twenty or twenty-five years' purchase. At the time of payment of annual compensation after the spring harvest of 1897, an Assistant Commissioner (Mr. Wilberforce) interviewed almost all of the some hundreds of payees. The very great majority were unwilling to compound. They were as disinclined towards a composition as are petty jágírdárs. These payees have in fact without distinction come to regard themselves and to be regarded as petty jágírdárs merely because they draw annual "pensions" from the treasury. This has given them a social importance they are disinclined to lose.

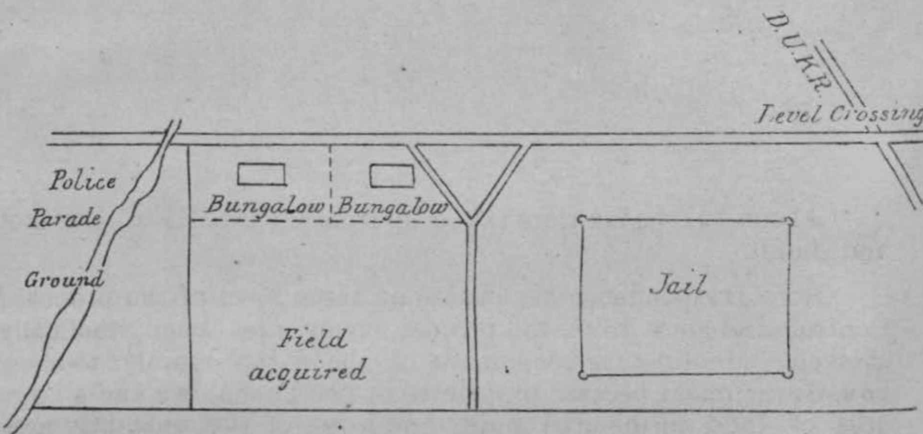
However almost all the payees of one sequestrated village were ready to compound, and there were some other cases. There is a report by the Assistant Commissioner on the subject. Government was advised to take the assenting parties at their word and thus encourage others to compound. The sum required was not large; though to purchase out all rights would involve a considerable expenditure.

CHAPTER XX.

The proposed Central Jail.

The conversion of the existing jail in Umballa into a central one was decided on about 1890, and in 1891 steps were taken for the acquisition of land. The main project was abandoned owing to orders issued by Government on the 15th August 1892, but land for the site of the jail and for brick-fields was acquired.

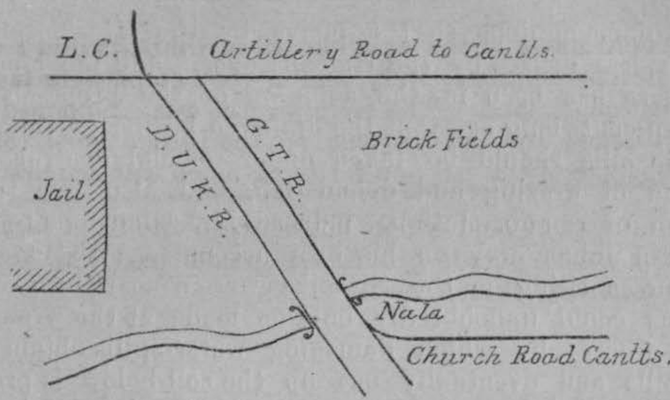
Of that area of land which lies between the front face of the jail and the police parade-ground the greater part was acquired, as in the following sketch :—



The area has recently been demarcated by a wall and ditch. Fifty-one acres odd were acquired from zamindárs, and the two bungalows belonging to Lála Ganeshi Lál, a banker, living in cantonments, were bought up at Rs. 7,000 odd and Rs. 10,000 odd respectively. The amount of compensation paid on all accounts was over Rs. 28,000. The proposed large jail was to stand in this area, the present jail being merged in it.

For brick-fields another area was acquired. This was not acquired permanently, and the Public Works Department still pays an annual rental of Rs. 197 odd for temporary occupation.

The area lies as shown in the following sketch:—



About 157 *bighas* were taken up from the *mauzâs* of Dhúlkot and Jandli.

No correspondence has passed on the subject of the proposed Central Jail since 1892, the project having then been practically shelved. Mention has been made of the matter mainly to show how Government became proprietor of two bungalows and a large area of land in the civil lines, and lessee of the unsightly area used for brick-fields between the Delhi-Umballa-Kálka Railway and the cantonment boundary. There is a book file concerning the case giving all details of land acquired.

CHAPTER XXI.

HILL-TORRENTS AND SOIL RECLAMATION AND PRESERVATION.

The damage done to the plains by the Hoshiárpur *chos* and in a less degree by the Umballa ones, and the long hesitation there has been in the adoption of the proposals made to Government long ago that the drainage basins of these *chos* inside the hills should be taken under official control for the prevention of grazing and denudation, and also for the introduction of re-afforestation, induced Mr. Gladstone to set to work in a minor way on his own account. As far as the water-courses rising in the Siwáliks were concerned efforts in the plains could undoubtedly only be made at the wrong end. But the process by which damaging water-spills obtain origin in the hills and eventually cut up the soil below is precisely repeated in miniature by water-spills having no origin in the hills but which spring from ravines (*darrárs*), created in exactly the same way in merely sloping country. With these cismontane spills which spring from *darrárs* it was possible to more or less successfully struggle. The soil below the Siwáliks is sloping and very friable and not being made firm by turf and grass it very easily cuts up under heavy rain. Where a weak place is found a breach in the soil occurs; and again these breaches are often caused by "Umballa holes." These "Umballa holes" (as they are called) are craters formed by the sudden subsidence of the upper soil owing to the under soil being fretted away by subsoil water action. Wherever these breaches are found the rain works mischief. By wash and scour the breach is enlarged till a *darrár* is formed, which again often becomes a very considerable spill-channel. By this process good fields are worn away. The soil is often thrown up in different form by the spill channel lower down, but it is not so often improved in quality or formation. Some villages in the Ghar and Darrar circles of Naráingarh suffer rather heavily from this natural process; and Mr. Douie was of opinion that the di-alluvion rules should be applied to them in an adapted form; whenever a certain percentage of the cultivated area was found to have disappeared without corresponding alluvion. (See paragraph 89 of Mr. Douie's Assessment Report, Jagádhri tahsíl).

With these local water-spills and *darrárs* Mr. Gladstone attempted to teach the zamíndárs to grapple by the planting of a thatching grass (locally known as *bind pula*) at the

source of mischief. There is no doubt that his views were thoroughly sound. The planting of this grass is efficacious in two ways. Firstly, if it is planted at the head of an incipient *darrár*, it tends to prevent the *darrár* increasing, just as timber and undergrowth on the hill sides guard against *chos* by forcing rain water to filtrate slowly instead of letting it pour down as it chooses off denuded surface land.

Again when a water-spill has been already established, plantations of *bind pula* thrown out as break-waters at proper points will stop minor spates and arrest the silt brought down, thus raising the land-level; reclaiming soil; and often diverting the main channel where it is threatening to do more mischief.

Bind pula shoots merely thrust into the sandiest soil in the rains, strike root readily, and once established the growth becomes dense.

The zamíndárs appreciated the doctrines taught; but when they do plant out *bind pula*, as they still do in some places, it is often more with the object of obtaining a quick harvest of easily saleable thatching grass than with the object of preserving or reclaiming land, for to look far ahead is certainly not a characteristic of the Gujar and Rájpút.

The sites of Sádhaura and Shahzádpur were both threatened with destruction by *cho* erosion. Mr. Gladstone saved the former by throwing out spurs and planting "*bind pula*" freely. There is now a dense plantation where the stream washed. Shahzádpur was saved by his successor by means of similar plantations, a dam, and an artificial cut for the stream to follow. This last scheme cost little, though previously an estimate for the work had been fixed at many thousands of rupees.

Government is now taking the *cho* question in hand, and the protection of the Siwáliks appears likely to be soon scientifically attempted. If some subordinate could be appointed to carry out this system of protection in the *darrár* country also, much soil could be saved; for what the mischief wants is constant watching, and what the zamíndárs require is constant tutelage combined with the supervision of a ranger. The *barrari* tract in tahsíl Shankargarh (Gurdáspur) and the Ghar and Darrar tracts in Jagádhri, Naráingarh, Rúpar and Kharar, yield fine examples of what rain-wash can effect on a soil not grass-bound. Where the Umballa Siwáliks terminate on the left bank of the Sutlej (near the Nálagarh village of Lakhanpur) the slopes are tortured and lacerated by rain-wash to an extent of almost inconceivable intricacy.

Perhaps the most conspicuous example of the lessons taught by Mr. Gladstone is to be seen in the village of Khanpur, near Kharar, which has its *ábádi* near a water-spill; which spill besides endangering the *ábádi* created flats of sand and sandhills; which latter driven by the winds were steadily encroaching upon arable lands, as such hills by constant shifting do in Hissár. Over the flats and dunes *bind pula* was planted in the wet season and *kikar* seed was strewn. There is now a dense plantation where the river was doing damage, and the water and wind action is checked. Moreover the villagers obtain a very considerable income from the sale of thatching grass and fuel; while the *ábádi* also stands secure. The profits of the preserve going into the *malba* is what principally pleases the villagers, but they do not undervalue the protective worth of the plantations.

It may be added that, now that the Pípli tahsíl has been transferred to Karnál, all questions relating to the canalisation of the flood waters of hill-torrents have ceased to concern the district. The Chautang, Rakhshi, Sarusti, Márkanda, Umla, and other spills used to give the Deputy Commissioner such concern, when the tracts in Pípli, which receive their flood water, were under his control; but now that the Deputy Commissioner of Karnál has in his charge the whole of the low-level lands, he can exclusively deal with all the canalisation questions.

CHAPTER XXII.

The Neli Tract.

This tract differs altogether in appearance from any other in the district. The multitude of date-palms, the terraced rice fields bordered with green turf, and the numerous channels of running water which irrigate the fields and turn the many water-mills, make the delta within the Ghaggar and the Sukhna *cho* a tract unique in the district. The Sukhna, issuing from the hills near Chandigarh at a point not far from where the Ghaggar issues, does not flow many miles before it joins the Ghaggar near Mobárakpur.

In the delta thus formed lie the Umballa-Neli tract and also a Kalsia Neli tract. Sheet No. 291 of the Punjab Survey depicts the tract fairly well, but the scale is not large enough to show either the *kúls* or the *kúl* heads very clearly.

A good map on a larger scale is required. In the office will be found an enlargement adapted from the Punjab Survey Sheet, drawn by Mr. Hailey when Subdivisional Officer at Rúpar. It has been put up in a book file along with a memorandum concerning existing and probable difficulties in connection with *kúl* heads and new *kúls*. This book file will be useful for reference when difficulties are referred for decision, especially because a map of the tract showing the irrigation system is indispensable on such occasions.

There is a very similar but larger Neli tract in the Gurdáspur district called Chak Andar, where a delta is formed by a river called the Ugh running into the Rávi, shortly after the latter river leaves the hills.

The irrigation systems of the two tracts are similar; *kúls* being taken off from the major river in such a way that they can flood all the villages within the delta; but while in the case of Chak Andar the levels allow of *kúls* being taken off from the Ugh as well, in the Umballa-Neli all the *kúls* take off from the Ghaggar only.

A difficulty arose in Chak Andar because the heads of most *kúls* lay in Jammu territory and the upper portions of the *kúls* were used to irrigate Jammu villages, while the Gurdáspur villages were irrigated only by the terminal portions.

In the case of the Umballa-Neli, fortunately, the *kúls* of the Umballa villages cannot be interfered with; and moreover the total water-supply of the Ghaggar is appraised and divided by a

rough regulating system high up the Ghaggar bed near Chandigarh. At this point a two-third share of the total water in the river is divided off and sent down a main channel to water the Umballa Neli villages inside the delta, and a one-third share is divided off and sent down another channel to supply the Kalsia Neli villages, three British villages standing without the delta, and the Patiála tracts of Chhatt, Banur, and Tepla, which trend off down the Ghaggar bed below the delta as far as the Grand Trunk Road to Ludhiána.

Heads, as necessity requires, are taken off at points down-stream from the main channels above mentioned, but as the whole of the waters of the Ghaggar are caught high up at Chandigarh, only the assigned two-thirds and one-third shares go down to the tracts for which they are allotted.

There is a brief account of the system of distribution given in paragraph 154, Chapter VII, of Mr. Kensington's Final Settlement Report. The system dates from 1852, when it was elaborated by Lieutenant Briggs.

There is an official called the Dárogha of the Ghaggar in charge of the water distribution and irrigation system. He is appointed by the Deputy Commissioner of Umballa. His pay is shared by Government and the Patiála and Kalsia States.

* * * * * * *

The Neli tract is notoriously unhealthy, and voluminous has been the correspondence in consequence. The husbandry is of the most indifferent description, but the abundant water-supply acting on a suitable soil produces rice crops of extraordinary fertility. To rice cultivation therefore all other husbandry has been subordinated, and the tract being devoted to the raising of what is practically a water-plant, has become ruined for other staples. The wheat is poor and when grown after rice, as is often the case, very indifferent.

While the settlement of 1887 was in progress, the Commissioner was considering the possibility of restoring salubrity to the tract by taking the whole system of water distribution in hand, and by revising the arrangements, so as to check over-irrigation and waste. This fact led to only a temporary assessment of the Neli tract. The assessments announced in 1887 were sanctioned for five years only.

Meanwhile the enquiries instituted by the Commissioner led to a conclusion that no remedy of the kind originally hoped for was practicable. On the other hand it was considered possible that the deterioration of the soil and the insalubrity of the tract might be remedied by a change of staples. A system of fluctuat-

ing assessment with different crop rates for different crops, imposing a prohibitive rate on rice crops and favourable rates on others, such as indigo and wheat, was considered a possible solution of the difficulty; and to this end the Commissioner introduced such an experiment into the Kalsia-Neli villages, over which he had control as chief adviser of the Kalsia State during the minority of the Sardár.

When the five years' assessment of the Umballa-Neli tract terminated in 1892 no sufficient pronouncement on the results of the Kalsia experiment could be made and the assessment was sanctioned for a further term of three years, *i. e.*, up to Rabi 1895. The Deputy Commissioner, Umballa, again reported on the case in April 1895, and then the Financial Commissioner recommended that the assessment should be confirmed for the rest of the term of settlement. But the Lieutenant-Governor, see printed letter No. 346S., dated 9th July 1895, to the Financial Commissioner, only extended the assessments for another term of four years, *i. e.*, up to Rabi 1899. The matter will again have to be referred, therefore, in the spring of 1899. One obstacle in the way of the Kalsia experiment proving a success seems to be that since the Kalsia villages lie south of and on ground below the Umballa villages, their lands are likely to be affected by the irrigation above in a manner sufficient to minimise the effects of cessation of irrigation below. The tract slopes considerably and thus the lower lands receive surface water from above as well as a great deal of subsoil drainage. Water sinking into the soil on the higher slopes passes over the stony strata below, and wells up again in basins or low lands lower down. In any case no authoritative announcement upon the success of the Kalsia experiment has been made during the years succeeding 1892.

Moreover the investigation into the reasons of the unhealthiness of the tract has been relegated to the Sanitary Board (see the printed Government letter mentioned above), and that body has started upon the work of compiling vital statistics. Statistics for a year or two have been furnished but it does not appear that the deliberations of the Board will be very relevant to the main point which was originally at issue. Issues have become rather confused by this reference; for the point to be actually decided was, whether the temporary assessment should be made permanent, or whether a fluctuating assessment should be introduced.

Probably the best step to take would be to make the temporary assessment permanent for the rest of the term of settlement.

* * * * * *

A dispute about irrigation between Patiála and Kalsia occurred in the neighbourhood of Brahmpur, a place some way down below the Ghaggar delta, in the neighbourhood of Chhatt (see Punjab Survey Sheet No. 291, Edition of 1891). This dispute went before Government, and Government asked for a map of the tract. At that time there were in the office only the preliminary editions (1889) of the Punjab Survey sheets, which editions do not contain native territory. As no map could be furnished, the Punjab Government obtained sanction from the Government of India for a survey (see book file). Subsequently, however, the sheets (Nos. 291 and 292) of the Edition of 1891 were obtained. These sheets show Native territory and in them the whole course of the Ghaggar, along with the irrigation systems running past Chhatt Banur and Tepla, can be traced. A survey of the tract was therefore counter-ordered. This was unfortunate from a local point of view as it had been hoped that a detailed survey of the irrigation within the Ghaggar delta would have on this occasion been obtained. Such a survey was considered very necessary by the Commissioner (Colonel Grey).

For those who wish to study questions connected with the Ghaggar irrigation, and irrigation existing or possible from streams running parallel with the Sarusti through Jagádhri and Pípli, the following volume is recommended: "Re-print of selections from the Records of the Punjab Administration. Old Series, No. XXIV."* This volume contains a report on the irrigation of the Ghaggar and Sarusti sent by Captain Cunningham to Colonel Boileau, Superintending Engineer, N.-W. P. (Umballa), under date the 25th July 1850. The re-print was published at the Government Civil Secretariat Press in 1874.

NOTE.—By letter No. 69, dated 10th May 1898, from the Revenue Secretary to the Punjab Government to the Financial Commissioner, Mr. Kensington's assessments in the Neli were confirmed for the remainder of the term of settlement of the Kharar tahsíl.

CHAPTER XXIII.

The Jumna Khadir.

The Khádir lands of Jagádhri consist of three Assessment circles, called the Southern Jumna, the Northern Jumna, and the Som, Khádir. The Northern Jumna Khádir circle contains soil inferior to that of the others, and a higher assessment rate than the Settlement Officer himself proposed was eventually adopted in the settlement of 1887. The rate is not in itself heavy, but the soil is inferior, there are often disastrous floods, and the husbandry of the Gujar Communities is exceedingly bad. In the beginning of 1896 the lambardárs of several villages in this circle petitioned to be absolved of responsibility for payment of the revenue unless it was reduced. Orders were issued (see correspondence) for an investigation as to the need or otherwise of a revision of assessments. The harvest statistics of all the villages were collated in one register which is on the file. It was found that the cultivated area in some villages had decreased appreciably, but that appreciable decrease was not general. When affairs were at this stage the drought of 1896-97 set in, and further investigation was postponed. Famine Relief projects occupied general attention, and moreover the drought made the men of the Khádir contented. The villagers of the Khádir say, that they paid off all their debts in the Famine of 1860-61, and doubtless they benefitted in 1896-97, as murmurs against assessments ceased. They may revive if wet seasons again begin to give the Khádir storm-water in excess ; and in that case it would be as well to first examine the file regarding the revision of assessments in the Khádir of the Delhi district.

CHAPTER XXIV.

PRODUCE AND CONSUMPTION AND EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

The problem of how far Umballa can be considered a self-supporting district has hitherto not been satisfactorily worked out. It was considered in 1878, when the "Punjab Report in reply to the Inquiries issued by the Famine Commission" was prepared. There is a copy of this report in the Commissioner's Office. The question again assumed importance in the Famine of 1896-97.

In this printed report of 1878 there is at page 151 a statement showing which districts are credited with surplus and which show deficient production. In this statement Umballa is shown as requiring to import the astonishing amount of about thirty lakhs of maunds of food grain per annum to make good deficiency.

It was calculated that the district required 8,416,681 maunds of food grain per annum to feed the population, and that the production was about thirty lakhs of maunds short of this amount.

The calculation was made in the manner appearing in the following statement. The population given (1,035,488) is of the Census of 1868, but this does not matter much, as the population was returned nearly the same (1,033,427) by the Census of 1891.

The rate of consumption is however high, being taken at one sér per head per diem for agriculturists, and ·80 of a sér in the case of non-agriculturists. The provincial view taken was "that any estimate based on an average consumption amounting to one sér per head per diem was certainly excessive," and that an all-round rate of ten chitáks per head might be more appropriately assumed.

However the calculation locally made was as follows :—

STATEMENT A.

Population.			Average daily consumption per head of populaton per diem in decimals of a sér.		Proportion in which the principal food grains are consumed (total diet=100). By agriculturists.			By non-agriculturists.			Total annual consumption of food grains at the rate stated in preceding colums.				
Agriculturists.	Non-agriculturists.	Total.	By agriculturists.	By non-agriculturists.	Wheat.	Inferior grains.	Pulses.	Wheat.	Inferior grains.	Pulses.	Class of population.	Wheat, maunds.	Inferior grains, maunds.	Pulses, maunds.	Total, maunds.
469,928	565,560	1,035,488	1·00	0·80	22½	45	32½	22	44	34	Agriculturists ...	964,820	1,929,642	1,393,631	4,288,093
											Non-agriculturists.	908,289	1,816,579	1,403,720	4,128,588
											Total ...	1,873,109	3,746,221	2,797,351	8,416,681

As Pípli was elided from the district in 1897, any present calculations must be made on the basis of a population of 855,985 (which by the Census of 1891 was the figure of population excluding Pípli), after the Pípli acreage of cultivation has been excluded. Such calculations have been made in the form of statement approved on page 104 of the Provincial Report of 1878 in order to show outturn as compared with consumption. As regards consumption alone the following calculation is given :—

STATEMEMT B.

Population, 1891 Census.		Rate in sérs per head per diem.	Consumption at the rates in preceding column per head of population per diem, in proportions of $\frac{22}{100}$ wheat, $\frac{44}{100}$ inferior grains, and $\frac{34}{100}$ pulses, &c.		Add grain required for seed.		Total consumption in maunds.
					Rate per acre in sérs.	Total amount in maunds.	
Rural	737,715	1 sér ...	1,480,963	Wheat	42	196,834	
Urban	118,270	·80 of a sér,	189,941				1,867,738
Rural			2,961,926	*Inferior grains.* Barley	35	104,776	
				Rice	32	81,246	
				Jowár and bájra	5	10,160	
Urban			379,882	Maize	14	23,092	
				China, kangni, &c.	16	2,529	
						221,803	3,563,611
			3,341,808	*Pulses.*			
Rural			2,288,761	Gram ...	20	29,544	
Urban			293,546	Pulses, &c. ...	8	11,772	
			2,582,307			41,316	2,623,623
Grand Total ...			7,595,019			459,953	8,054,972

The rate of consumption taken in this Statement B, is the same as that locally taken in 1878, *viz.*, 1 sér for agriculturists and ·80 of a sér for non-agriculturists, and the reason why the total of consumption (8,054,972 maunds) so closely approximates to the total (8,416,681 maunds) of 1887, even though Pípli is now excluded, is that the figures of rural and urban population have been taken from the *Gazetteer* as they stand. This 'urban' and 'rural' differentiation by no means agrees with the proportion of agriculturists and non-agriculturists shown in Statement A of this chapter. In Statement A the non-agriculturists are shown to predominate, while in Statement B, the urban is about one-sixth of the total of the rural population. Statement B is therefore of no great value except to show the most exaggerated amount of consumption it would be possible to credit the district with.

To arrive at an estimate of perhaps the lowest amount of consumption the district could be credited with, the following calculation has been made. In this calculation the approved provincial rate of consumption has been adopted, *viz.*, ten chitáks per diem per head of population, without distinction between urban and rural classes.

The consumption is divided between wheat, inferior grains and pulses in locally accepted proportions of $\frac{22}{100}$ $\frac{44}{100}$ and $\frac{34}{100}$, respectively. These were the proportions locally assumed in 1887. They differ from those accepted for the Province, which were the average of proportions given by districts.

STATEMENT C.

Population, Census 1891.	Consumption in maunds at ten chitáks per head of population per diem in proportions of $\frac{22}{100}$ wheat, $\frac{44}{100}$ inferior grains and $\frac{34}{100}$ pulses.		Add grain required for seed.		Total consumption in maunds.
			Rate per acre in sérs.	Total amount in maunds.	
855,985 souls.	Wheat	1,073,994	42	196,834	1,270,828
	Inferior grains—				
	Barley	2,147,987	35		
	Rice		32		
	Jowár and bájra		5		
	Maize		14		
	Chína, kangni, &c. ...		15	221,803	2,369,790
	Pulses—				
	Gram	1,659,808	20		
	Pulses, &c.		8	41,316	1,701,124
	Grand Total ...	4,881,789		459,953	5,341,742

This statement gives a total consumption of 5,347,142 maunds. Statement B above gave 8,054,972 maunds.

This last is an outside total. If the mean between the excessive estimate and the low estimate is taken, consumption will stand at about sixty-five lakhs; but if the provincial rate of ten chitáks per head is at all reliable, there is no reason why fifty-three lakhs should not be taken as the standard figure.

As to production the following statement shows the total maundage which it is calculated was yielded by the harvests of 1894-95, which year was an average year. The rates of produce per acre are the provincial rates accepted in 1878.

STATEMENT D.

Food Grains.	Production. Area cultivated in acres.	Estimated Produce. Rate per acre in sérs.	Estimated Produce. Total produce, maunds.	Remarks.
1. Wheat.	187,461	400	1,874,610	
2. *Inferior grains—*				
Barley	119,744	400	1,197,440	The acreage is according to returns for 1894-95.
Rice	101,557	400	1,015,570	
Jowár and bájra	81,283	250	508,018	
Maize	80,265	300	601,987	
Chína and kangni	10,118	200	50,590	
	392,967		3,373,605	
3. *Pulses—*				
Gram	59,088	48	443,160	
Pulses	58,859	200	294,295	
	117,947		737,455	
Grand Total ...	698,375		5,985,670	

The total outturn by this calculation is 5,985,670 maunds, which according to Statement B leaves a deficit of 2,069,302 maunds, and according to Statement C gives a surplus of 643,928, and according to the mean between these statements (6,698,357 maunds) leaves a deficit of 712,687.

But the provincially accepted rates of produce per acre are not considered applicable. Many crop experiments have been made harvest by harvest of late years, and we are in a far better position to estimate outturn than was the case in 1887. It was in this particular that the calculations locally made in 1887 broke down. The heads to be considered were *Cereals*: wheat, barley, rice, *jowár*, *bájra*, maize, *chíná* and *kangní*; and *Pulses*: gram, peas, *masúr*, *moth*, *másh* and *múng*; but these staples were grouped under the following heads only: Wheat, rice, inferior grains, and gram. The estimates (see page 117 of the printed Provincial Report) were incomplete and insufficient.

The following statement has been prepared by the Revenue Assistant from the acreage returns of 1894-95, upon the basis of rates of produce which experience has rendered acceptable. These rates are considerably higher than the provincial rates worked with in the preceding statement:—

STATEMENT E.

Food Grains.	Production.		
	Area cultivated in acres.	Estimated produce.	
		Rate per acre in sérs.	Total produce in maunds.
1. Wheat.	187,461	600	2,811,915
2. *Inferior grains*—			
Barley	119,744	520	1,556,672
Rice	101,557	400	1,015,570
Jowár and bájra	81,283	240	487,698
Maize	80,265	760	1,525,035
Chíná and kangni	10,118	240	60,708
	392,967		4,645,683
3. *Pulses*—			
Gram	59,088	480	709,056
Pulses, &c.	58,859	480	706,308
	117,947		1,415,364
Grand Total ...	698,375		8,872,962

The total maundage arrived at by this calculation is 8,872,962 maunds, and this figure can be relied upon as fairly accurately representative of the outturn of an average year.

This total of 8,872,962, according to Statement B, leaves a surpnls of 817,990 maunds; according to Statement C

3,531,220 maunds ; and according to the mean of consumption 2,174,605 maunds.

These results are far more favorable than those arrived at in 1878, and at the same time far more probably accurate.

In 1878, no other district in the Province returned anything like 3,000,000 maunds of food grains in deficit. Even Delhi, with a huge city and a small rural area, only showed nine lakhs as required to supplement outturn. Lahore also showed nine lakhs. This was the largest deficit shown by any district. Karnál showed a deficit of three lakhs. It is surprising that Umballa should have been shown as requiring to import thirty lakhs.

Nor is this computation borne out by the returns of imports available. In the famine period of 1896-97 the Government of India initiated a system of registration of imports into, and exports from distircts, at all Railway Stations. In the period of nine months between the 1st February and the 1st of November 1897, 385,973 maunds (net), or say four lakhs, were returned as imported, according to the following detail :—

Railway Stations.	Imports.	Exports.	Difference.
Umballa city	109,582	15,061	+94,521
Umballa cantonments	298,660	55,738	+242,922
Kesri	1,136	58	+1,078
Barára	11,397	136	+11,261
Mustafabad	6,781	1,199	+5,582
Jagádhri	37,732	16,178	+21,554
* Rájpura	607	91	+516
* Sirhind	2,360	...	+2,360
Dhúlkot	...	6,762	−6,762
† Kharíndwa	2,764	1,352	+1,412
† Thánesar	3,492	772	+2,720
Ghaggar	‡ 8,809	...	+8,809
Chandigarh	...	...	...
Total	483,320	97,347	385,973

* Patiála Stations.
† Now Karnál Stations.
‡ These probably represent imports from the Neli tract.

These figures indicate that about five lakhs of maunds were imported in the twelve months of 1897, and if such were the imports in a famine year, it is hard to understand how thirty lakhs are ordinarily required by import.

On the other hand, the conclusions which may be arrived at from these revised calculations now made are, that the district is in ordinany years self-supporting, and that there is, moreover, a considerable margin for export, which cannot at any rate well be lower than ten lakhs of maunds. It is wheat which is principally exported, while the inferior grains remain. Wheat is by no means the staple food of the population, as the proportions of different grains consumed given in foreging tables denote. Maize is the staple food of the agricultural classes for six months of the year, and after the spring harvest wheat and gram mixed are eaten while wheat is cheap.

Umballa is certainly reckoned one of the exporting districts by wheat-exporting firms. Given a good harvest, when there has been no wetting of the grain upon the threshing floors by untimely rain, and the purchasing agents put in prompt appearance when the rabi comes in. The operations of these purchasing firms certainly checked the fall in the price of wheat in 1898, whatever may be said about exports from sea-ports having only an infinitesimal effect upon prices and reserve stocks in the country. When the Rabi of 1898 was being garnered it was expected that wheat would fall to 20 sérs per rupee. The purchase operations of Ralli Brothers, Sanday, Patrick & Co., and other firms, put a stop to the fall, and eventually a price of 16 sérs was the lowest expected. The Umballa zemíndárs like those of more recognised exporting districts then began to sell with alacrity. The city *mandi* was full of bought-up heaps destined for exportation.

CHAPTER XXV.

SUSPENSIONS OF REVENUE.

A note upon necessity for suspensions of revenue is given in paragraph 5 of Mr. Kensington's Final Settlement Report (1893). In this note it is stated that the Kharar and Rúpar tahsíls are the only two in which suspensions can be rarely, if ever, necessary.

In the remaining tahsíls, as Mr. Kensington says, it is likely to be often a question whether revenue ought not to be suspended, especially for the rabi harvest.

The famine of 1896-97 served to illustrate the necessity for suspensions in a marked way, and figures of the suspensions are given below.

In the case of the kharíf harvest suspensions cannot be so often necessary as in the case of the rabi; for whether the rains come at normal time or late there is almost certain to be a sufficient fall to raise considerable food-grain crops. Cotton may suffer owing to a tardy monsoon and rice may wither if the rains cease suddenly, but of *chína*, maize, and millet there is always fair certainty of a considerable harvest.

But the winter rains are exceedingly capricious, and a rabi sown under the most propitious circumstances at the tail end of the monsoon may collapse altogether owing to absence of rain in December and January, when it is most wanted. The rabi sown in the last quarter of 1897 may be taken as an instance. No sowings could have taken place under better conditions. There was good rain in the equinoctial period (*kaniá wani*) which is considered most fortunate. There were extensive sowings and the young crops sprouted well. But there was no rain in December and January, and hopes fell. The crops were, however, saved by an unusually heavy fall of rain in the first half of February; although gram, and other crops sown as early as gram usually is, had in places suffered a great deal.

The variableness of the winter rains thus always renders the rabi harvest one of exceptional uncertainty.

In the matter of suspensions the suddenness with which demand for them arises is noteworthy. Previous good harvests count for little when drought sets in, as the zamíndárs are thriftless and indebted, and live from hand to mouth for the most part, saving up nothing against the evil day. In speaking thus the Umballa, Naraingarh and Jagádhri tahsíls are alluded to and not

the tahsíls of the Subdivision, which latter are markedly prosperous in comparison.

The harvests which preceded the drought of 1896-97 were conspicuously good. In a bulletin issued in May 1895, the Director of Land Records wrote that "the Province has now enjoyed three unusually good spring harvests in succession and stocks have been fully replenished especially as the autumn harvests have also been good."

The Umballa Kharíf crop of 1895 moreover was average, which was not the case in the Division generally.

With the abrupt termination of the rains in 1895 the season of distress set in. The Rabi crop of 1896 was classed as a 6½-anna one.

Though there had been good harvests for three years, suspensions of about half-a-lakh of the rabi revenue were entailed; Rs. 38,000 more were suspended in Kharíf 1896; and Rs. 70,000 more in Rabi 1897; making a total of suspensions during the drought of about Rs. 1,60,000.

[In the above figures the suspensions for Pípli (now Karnál) are included.]

Of this amount of Rs. 1,60,000, about Rs. 87,000 were *khálsa* and Rs. 72,000 *jágír*.

[It must be rememembered that so much of the revenue in Umballa is assigned revenue, that if over a large tract of country in the Sadar tahsíls village to village suspensions are made according to the distress evinced, only about three-fifths of the suspended total may be *khálsa* : for the proportion that *jágír* revenue bears to *hhálsa* within the tract is about two-fifths.]

The following table showing suspensions by tahsíls may be useful. The figures for the Pípli tahsíl are included :—

	Kharíf, 1895.	Rabi, 1896.	Kharíf, 1896.	Rabi, 1897.
Umballa	...	10,300	6,640	15,000
Naraingarh	...	18,770	9,860	22,080
Jagádhri	1,484	15,300	13,960	17,030
Pípli	...	3,900	8,030	12,980
Rúpar	86	...	...	880
Kharar	...	1,204	...	2,230

The totals for the tahsíls during the period of distres were—

	Khalsa.	Jagir.	
Umballa	21,050	10,900	31,950
Naraingarh	29,660	21,060	50,720
Jagádhri	15,910	31,870	47,780
Pípli	19,350	5,570	24,920
Rúpar	650	310	960
Kharar	560	2,880	3,440
Grand Total			1,59,800 (round)

The superiority of the tahsíls of the Rúpar Subdivision is marked, the two tahsíls only accounting for Rs. 4,400 in the way of suspension out of a total of about Rs. 1,60,000. There are some villages of Kharar, like Sundrán, lying east of the Ghaggar in the Mubárakpur tract, which are very similar to Naraingarh villages and require attention. Had it not been for these villages there would probably have been no suspensions in Kharar. But there are two Ghár circles and a Dakár circle in the Subdivision which in a very prolonged drought would call for suspensions, the latter especially, as much of the land is only suitable for rice and light rain has no effect upon it.

Looking at the figures of the tahsíls of the district proper, Naraingarh required most relief by suspensions, followed in order by Jagádhri, Umballa and Pípli—[Pípli was aided by the fairly numerous wells which are uncommon elsewhere, and by the prosperous tract called the Bet Márkanda.]

Naraingarh may be considered the worst tahsíl. There are three small Dákar *chaks*, one Darrar, and a long Ghár *chak;* the rest of the tahsíl being Seoti and much of it poor. In bad drought very many villages in the first three *chaks* may require relief and some considerable number in the Seoti also. There are practically no wells and the agriculturists are thriftless and indebted.

The Jagádhri tahsíl has three areas formed into a Kandi *chak*, three distinct Khádir *chaks*, a very large Bangar *chak*, and a smaller Dahír *chak*. In drought the Khadir *chaks* do well, crops being generally much benefitted; but in the other *chaks* many villages are likely to require relief. The *dáhír* soil ap-

proximates to *dákar* soil, aud without fair rain such clay soil cannot be worked.

Umballa has much *dakar* soil to the south-west and again more of it around Mulána; the whole of the rest of the tahsíl being *seoti*. The "*Dakar*" and "*Dakar*-Mulána" *chaks* will turn out fine rice crops in a copious monsoon but require much attention in drought. The Seoti villages here as elsewhere can often tide over much drought; the light loam requiring so little rain.

The characteristics and financial circumstances of village communities cannot well be overlooked in the matter of suspensions. With a light revenue, one or two bad seasons might reasonably be taken no account of if the soil were done justice to and agriculturists were thriving; but when it is known that in all bad seasons the thriftless Rájpúts and Gujars, and even a large proportion of Jats and others, will have to borrow and get deeper into debt if revenue is not suspended, a District Officer may well often hesitate to get in the demand.

But it is expedient to suspend and not remit, and to call in as much of the suspensions as possible when the harvests are good. It is doubtful whether the surplus proceeds of a good harvest are much applied towards liquidating old debts, though no doubt seed borrowed for sowings, with its interest, will be returned.

In paragraph 5 of his Final Settlement Report, Mr. Kensington advocates the postponement of recovery until the second of two consecutive good harvests after a drought; but in considering how much of the suspended sum of Rs. 1,60,000 should be recovered with the good Kharíf of 1897 (a kharíf it was said such as had not been seen for twenty years), it was decided to call in about one-third.

The Pípli tahsíl was transferred to Karnál with effect from 1st October 1897. The recoveries ordered in the other tahsíls were in round numbers as follows :—

Umballa	13,000	out of	30,000	outstanding
Jagádhri	21,000	,,	51,000	,,
Naráingarh	12,000	,,	52,000	,,
Kharar	400	,,	3,000	,,
Rúpar	200	,,	900	,,
	46,600		1,36,900	

The figures in the last column of the table vary from those shown previously as the tahsíl totals of suspension during the distress, as some small suspensions which existed previous to the period of distress have been included.

These recoveries were ordered after deliberation with Tahsíldárs, who were of opinion that surplus obtained by the zamíndárs from the good harvest would not be much applied towards expunging old debts nor made satisfactory use of.

From the *Gazetteer* there appear to have been the following suspensions of revenue during previous famines or droughts :—

	Rs.	
1860—1861	... 77,000	... Umballa, Jagádhri, Naráingarh.
1868—1869	... 45,500	Umballa, Jagádhri, Naráingarh, Pípli.
1884—1885	... 30,000	
1890.	... 44,000	

It is not stated whether these sums were mixed *khálsa* and *jágír*, or *khálsa* only.

CHAPTER XXVI.

I.—Brief account of the famine of 1896-97 as it affected Umballa.

An account of previous famines which have affected the Umballa district is given at page 30 of the Umballa *Gazetteer* (1892-93).

English records of these famines are scanty or non-existent.

The famine of 1868-69, which affected some districts of the Province, did not touch Umballa so nearly, but sanction for suspension of a lakh of revenue (*khálsa*) was asked for. There is no District Report on record, but returns of relief given in the district are embodied in the Provincial Report printed on that occasion.*

When the famine of 1896-97 declared itself, a docket asking for sanction to the suspension of the lakh in 1868-69 was the only record of previous famines which could be found, though it is possible there may be some records which have got mislaid. Need for such an amount of suspension did not eventually declare itself.

The prices reached in the famine of 1896-97 are believed to be the highest on record. In towns wheat at one time in 1896 sold at 7 sérs, and wheat, gram, and maize at 8 sérs in 1897. In rural tracts, wheat, gram, and maize were sold at the common rate of 10 sérs for a period. Famine prices existed from Kharíf 1896 to Kharíf 1897. In the famine of 1860-61 wheat is believed to have been sold at 8 sérs.

The acutest distress amounting to regular famine occurred in Hissár and to a smaller extent in Karnál; Umballa, as has usually been the case in this Division, remaining on the fringe of the area of acutest distress.

There were tracts in Umballa, such as the lowlands (*Khádir*) of the Jumna, the Neli tract of the Ghaggar, and the lowlands (*bet*) of the Márkanda, which yielded good crops all through the drought, and in the loam (*seoti*) lands there were also crops of an indifferent kind obtained; while again in the Rúpar and Kharar tahsíls of the Rúpar Subdivision the crops were not so bad as to call for any considerable suspensions of revenue.

In the Umballa tahsíl during the famine period over Rs. 30,000 of revenue were suspended; in Naraingarh over Rs. 50,000; in Jagádhri over Rs. 47,000; and in Pípli over Rs. 24,000, while in

*What records there are of the famines of 1861 and 1869 and subsequent scarcities will also be found in the Famine Report, Punjab, 1878-79. This report contained the Provincial replies to the inquiries of the Famine Commission. There is no copy in the office but there is one in the Commissioner's Office.

Rúpar and Kharar only Rs. 1,000 and 3,000 were suspended, respectively (total suspensions Rs. 1,60,000).

Thus, as the district was itself producing a certain amount of food grain and the means of communication for the import of grain are excellent, grain was in all parts available for those who had the means to buy it (the sole exception perhaps being the Morni hill tract where stocks ran out without being quickly replenished in villages difficult of access).

In considering the famine question the Subdivision (Rúpar and Kharar tahsíls) may be left out of consideration. There have been no instances of recorded serious distress from complete failures of crops in this Subdivision, and recent experience has shown that it may be considered as practically a secure tract.

The four tahsíls dealt with were Umballa, Naraingarh, Jagádhri, and Pípli, comprising an area of 1,540 square miles with a rural population of, say, 584,000.

Classing (from census guides) 294,000 as agriculturists, 290,000 may be returned as "others." A large deduction must be made from this last total to allow for village shop-keepers and traders above the reach of want; but after this deduction has been made, an estimate is reached of the size of that body of persons who in a period of famine prices live in a state of deprivation which is akin to slow starvation.

Village serfs or *begárs* in receipt of recognised doles may be excepted from this class; but manual labourers, and field helps, carriers, and others, all come into it; and owing to the indolence and pride of the Rájpút zamíndárs and others, there are unusually large communities of these in the district. These people in a time of famine form a large body of "the unemployed," which is swelled by weavers who are given no orders to weave, and petty handicraftsmen who get no work to do. They may be classed roughly as the great body of *kámíns* or *kangáls*. It was this body which felt the extreme pinch of the famine. The agriculturists they ordinarily serve, no longer employed them, and they could obtain no credit with the bania. The zamíndárs had credit and lived on it. Thus the calamity might have been described as a "zamíndárs' scarcity" and a "kamíns' famine."

There can be little hesitation in saying that these lower classes would succumb earlier in such periods if the wild produce of the earth did not afford them food of a kind.

These classes have generation after generation been accustomed to supplement their diet in this way. Appended is a

list* of stuffs found in actual use in *chamars*' kitchens, when their houses were entered without warning. The wild *sawank* (bulrush millet) which differs little in appearance from the cultivated millet, furnishes the most acceptable substitute for food grain, and wild leeks (*Punjábi*, *baghát*) are used as vegetables. It was reported that the menials employed on one occasion during the famine to cut the grass on the cantonment grass farm lands, saved their wages, existing almost entirely on the wild bulrush millet found plentifully on the lands of the farm.

The fact that the diet of these classes is supplemented in this way cannot be overlooked or disregarded. It must be taken into consideration that one of the natural safeguards against death from starvation amongst the lower classes, is supplied by the wild products of the earth. The people realise this themselves, and it cannot be part of the Famine Officer's duty to dissuade them from following established practice. Work may be offered them certainly, but if it is found that they will not go from home to even a fairly neighbouring Relief Work, but prefer to live on without work at home, then it must be presumed that they do not fear starvation, however indifferent and uncivilised is the food which they obtain.

In Umballa, Relief Works were started at the close of 1896, and, with the exception of one considerable Canal-cut, these works consisted of Tank-works amounting to 38 in number.

Persons were employed to the following extent:—

In the week ending	28th November 1896	1,000
" " "	5th December 1896	4,000
" " "	6th February 1897	5,000
" " "	13th February "	16,000
" " "	20th February "	27,000
" " "	13th March "	34,000
" " "	20th March "	33,000
" " "	27th March "	22,000
" " "	3rd April "	13,000
" " "	10th April "	4,000
" " "	15th May "	5,000
" " "	22nd May "	9,000
" " "	29th May "	15,000
" " "	12th June "	13,000
" " "	19th June "	8,000
" " "	26th June "	4,000
" " "	17th July "	1,000

These are weekly totals which have to be divided t show the number employed on any one day. Thus t' largest number employed on any given day only reac

* This list will be found given in the Famine Report submitted from the distric

to 4,800. The big totals in February and March were caused by the Canal-cut being then in progress.

Although these works relieved distress, it is doubtful whether they directly prevented any loss of life. That the body of "the unemployed" did not fear loss of life was clear from the fact that bodies of people did not move to work centres. Works were filled (even in the case of the Canal-cut) by people coming from villages around, to whom it was no trouble to move on to the works. There was no general tendency evinced to search for work wherever it might be found. In April there was indeed a general move (which left all Relief Works deserted) in search of the accustomed harvest labour to tracts where there were crops, but this was the only generel move in search of work displayed, and this moreover was a normal move.

On the Tank-works the District Board expended Rs. 24,000. This money was not ill spent, as it gave numbers the means to buy good food ; but regarding the works merely as measures preventive of death by starvation, they must be considered as having been rather premature.

On gratuitous relief in rural tracts Rs. 7,000 odd were expended from District Funds. This system of relief might, perhaps, have been advantageously adopted instead of Relief Works; but there was difficulty about capable and reliable agency. A couple of Náib-Tahsíldárs were eventually detailed to organise the distribution of gratuitous relief. To bring relief to the effete and incapable and helpless amongst the lower classes, and to the widows and helpless families amongst the *zamíndári* classes, was probably the most important matter of all, and, at the outset, had a good system of gratuitous relief been possible, probably no attempts at Relief Works would have seemed necessary at all.

A Spinning Establishment was maintained for many months in Umballa city, which greatly assisted the poorer women of the town.

The actual relief, direct and indirect, during the period was as follows :—

From District Funds.

	Rs.
I.—On Relief Works (tanks) under District Officers	24,447
II.—Gratuitous relief	7,331
III.—Poor-house	36
IV.—Spinning establishment	2,424
V.—Miscellaneons	2,360
Total ...	36,598

From the Indian Famine Charitable Relief Fund.

		Rs.
Cheap shops	... ...	6,000
Cash relief in villages	... ...	4,000
Advances for cattle	... ...	5,000
	Total ...	15,000

From Provincial Funds.

Advances for seed and cattle	... ...	44,000
Suspension of revenue—		
Government revenue	... ...	87,200
Assigned revenue ...	... ...	72,600
	Total ...	1,59,800
	GRAND TOTAL ...	2,55,398

NOTE.—The money spent in wages on the Canal Cut has not been shown.

Through all this distress zamíndárs who had no home stocks left lived on their credit. Such as could no longer mortgage were forced to sell sufficient land to suit themselves. They did not seriously consider the question of accepting State-paid labour. The bania served their turn in the traditional way. The most indebted no doubt reduced their diet and the number of their meals, but they were not reduced to the condition of claiming relief from the State. They only considered how much the bania would lend.

CHAPTER XXVII.

Excise.

Umballa is an important Excise district, not only on account of revenue derived, but particularly as the chief opium-producing tract in the Province.

The Provincial Excise income for 1896-97 was returned at Rs. 22,75,000, seven districts being conspicuous in yielding revenues much above the average. These werethe following :—
The figures given show the net income—

					Rs.
Lahore	...	...	...	...	3,10,100
Amritsar	...	...	...	...	2,33,900
Ferozepore	...	...	...	...	1,82,700
Umballa	...	...	...	...	1,57,700
Ráwalpindi	...	...	...	...	1,47,300
Pesháwar	...	...	...	...	1,09,500
Simla	...	...	...	...	1,00,900

The lowest yield of any one district in the Province was 16,000 odd. The receipts in the districts of the Mánjha and in Ferozepore are swelled by the large consumption of spirits by the Sikh population. In the matter of opium revenue Umballa stood third on the list.

In 1897-98 the transfer of the Pípli tahsíl affected the returns, but the gross receipts were calculated at Rs. 1,54,875 after audit in the Excise Commissioner's Office ; Rs. 14,700 having been credited in that office on account of the import duty on Málwa opium received in the district, and Rs. 4,735 on account of duty on spirits imported from the Sujánpur distillery, such credits being always allotted at the end of the year. (For the Rs. 6,466 paid as duty by Umballa contractors on spirits imported from the Rosa distillery, Shahjehánpur, the N.-W. Provinces received credit). After deduction of about Rs. 10,000 on account of Estalishment charges, &c., (nearly half of which sum went to Kalsia in consideration for the farm of the State's Excise business) the net receipts stood at Rs. 1,44,785, compared with Rs. 1,57,700 in the previous year.

Out of the gross receipts of Rs. 1,54,875, the sum of Rs. 88,242 was obtained from spirits, &c., and of Rs. 66,186 from opium and drugs.

The above comparisons show the financial position of the district in the matter of Excise, but the following figures serve to show that Umballa is such an important opium-producing centre, that it accounted in 1897 (by an average taken from two harvests) for nearly half the poppy cultivation in the five opium-producing tracts.

The following are the figures :—

	Area in acres.
Kot Khái tahsíl (Simla)	200
Kulu Subdivision	1,680
Umballa district	3,600
Shahpur district	1,500
Dera Ghází Khan district (two tahsíls) ...	600

The cultivators of 7,000 holdings in Umballa raised poppy crops compared with 1,100 in Shahpur and 600 in Dera Ghází Khan.

There are four other tracts in which the prohibition orders are provisionally relaxed, but in these tracts the poppy is cultivated mainly to put poppy heads and not opium on the market. Moreover these tracts return only a small acreage of poppy

Returns for 1896-97 credited Jullunder with an average of 270 acres; Lahore with 400; Amritsar with 270; and Hoshiarpur (three tahsíls) with 65 acres.

The condition of things is altered now that the Pípli tahsíl, which raised much poppy has been transferred to Karnál. Excluding the Pípli figures the returns of poppy for recent years stand as follows :—

		Acres.
Rabi	1895	2,619
"	1896	2,110
"	1897	2,186
"	1898	1,436

But without the Pípli tahsíl the district is likely to still rank as the chief opium-producing tract, provided that cultivation is not discouraged. The returns for 1898 are abnormally low owing to particular causes.

It may be worth while to discuss these causes here, as the amount of poppy cultivation in future years requires to be carefully watched. In the first place, it may be stated that the Punjab is not self-supporting in the matter of opium, depending as it does on five recognised opium-producing tracts and on opium from the Hill States. The supplies are augmented by

allotments from Málwa and from Gházipur. But it is understood that the Government of India is anxious that the Province should be as far self-supporting as possible, and should look upon the Málwa allotments as supplementary only, and capable of being gradually withdrawn; Málwa opium being disposable to greater advantage elsewhere than in the Punjab. If this is the state of the case then any diminution in cultivation in a tract which is the principal one of five is a serious matter. At present, nevertheless, Málwa opium is believed to be a principal discouragement to Umballa opium. The two articles are in constant competition in the market at all times, but it is believed that owing to imports obtained by them from Málwa the Patiála contractors are becoming slack in their demands for Umballa opium. About two-thirds of the outturn of Umbala poppy harvests have always been accustomed to be absorbed by Patiála and other States in the Cis-Sutlej tract. As the duty levied on the imports of Málwa opium is credited to the Patiála State, it is believed that the State desires that the annual allotment should be imported under any circumstances. If, therefore, Patiála contractors get up large supplies of Málwa opium in January and February, sufficient to last them for months, they will not be ready to buy up the Umballa article in March and April while it is fresh. This is what occurred with regard to be Rabi of 1897, and cultivators having their stocks left on their hands, lost by dryage and were disappointed of quick returns. These circumstances largely accounted for the short cultivation in Rabi 1898, and these points will require attention in the future. Poppy is an extremely paying crop under fortunate conditions, and it is a matter of local moment as well as of provincial moment that the cultvation should not decline.

Much attention has been directed to opium questions recently, and the officer in charge of Umballa is always likely to have many such engaging his attention. A duty on Hill States opium has recently been imposed, and the acreage duty on poppy cultivation may possibly be enhanced with effect from Rabi 1899. This last scheme was the result of requisitions made by the Government of India for the better control of Punjab grown opium.

The suggestions of the Government of India for the compulsory storage of poppy juice in official store-rooms and for the imposition of a quantitative duty instead of an acreage duty were not accepted, but an enhancement of the acreage rate was prospectively approved, and a simultaneous application was made to the Government of India for the raising of the import duty on Málwa opium from Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 per sér.

This last move was very necessary, as Málwa opium often undersells the Umballa article as it is. The average prices quoted for 1897-98 were Rs. 12-12-0 per sér for the former article and Rs. 13 for the latter.

There is a fear that if the acreage rate is raised too high cultivation may be restricted in Umballa and fostered in the Native States, and also that the smuggling from Málwa, which is already considerable, may be encouraged. A rate of Rs. 3 per acre, instead of the existing Rs. 2, is alone proposed in the case of Umballa, though higher rates are proposed for other districts.

With a simultaneous rise in the price of the Málwa article, the Umballa cultivation should not be injuriously affected by the rise of one rupee in the acreage duty.

What would best suit the Umballa cultivators would be a "close time" for imports of Málwa opium into Patiála and the other Cis-Sutlej States, arranged, if this were possible, so that the contractors would be bound to buy up the Umballa article when fresh, but this would involve more interference with Native States than would be countenanced.

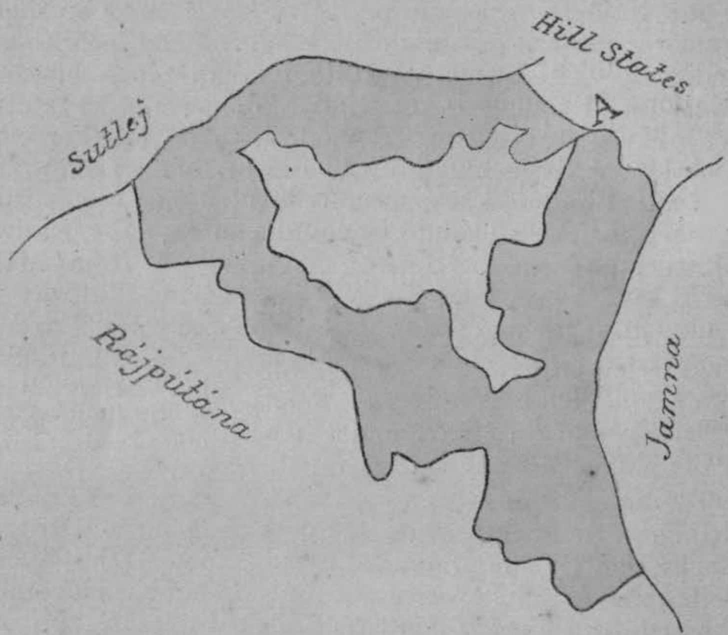
The Umballa opium is of a class known as *dúdh*. It is merely the juice of the poppy in a dilute form, the juice being collected in dishes containing a certain amount of water, whereas in other districts the juice is scraped off the poppy head on to leaves. The outturn averages in a good year as much as 12 sérs per acre, but reduced to hard opium it loses about half its weight. This *dúdh* opium naturally suffers much from dryage if kept long on hand.

The above are some of the leading questions in connection with poppy cultivation, but local Excise work has been also increased by the recent imposition of a duty upon *charas* which entails work in the matter of passes; also by the recently imposed tax on Hills States' opium which entails watch of the routes into Umballa through the Siwáliks; and it will be considerably increased when the proposed tax upon *bhang* is introduced, as the hemp plant grows wild in large quantities in the Jaghádri tahsíl. There was much correspondence concerning the possibility of giving licenses for the collection of *bhang* and of rendering collection without such penal. The publication of the *bhang* rules will be likely to cause at any rate temporary access of work.

The prevention of smuggling, again, requires a great deal of attention. The facilities for smuggling are great. To the north

lie the opium-producing Hill States in which opium sells much cheaper than the opium of the Punjab plains. Again the whole of the western border of Umballa marches with Patiála.

The following sketch shows how the existence of a large area of independent territory insulated within the Cis-Sutlej tract, together with one very weak point in the physical configuration of the Umballa district with reference to the Hill States, renders watch against smuggling continuously needed :—



In the above sketch British territory is washed red, the territory uncoloured representing Patiála and other States. This independent territory marches with the British districts of Ferozepore, Hissár, Rohtak, Karnál, Umballa and Ludhiána. From Rajputána it is separated by a belt of British territory. From the Hill States it is not well guarded, as the belt of territory is at the point

A, a mere neck half-a-mile across. This is where the Rúpar Subdivision joins on to Umballa Proper near Chandigarh. There is danger of Hill State opium which has paid no duty getting through here. Again, although the belt of British territory dividing the area of independent territory from Rájputána is broad, lines of Railway now permit of Málwa opium being smuggled into independent territory with extra facility. Such smuggling operations not only allow of consumers in Native States obtaining opium on which duty has not been paid, but when once supplies of smuggled opium are got into the independent tract, the licensed vendors along the borders of six British districts are given opportunities of obtaining illicit supplies.

When the tax on Hill States' opium was introduced an extra staff of a Náib-Dárogha and peons was sanctioned, so that special preventive precautions might be taken in the neighbourhood of Chandigarh. This guard makes Mubárakpur its head-quarters. If Kasauli is transferred to Umballa it should be stationed at Kálka. The guard is withdrawn in the cold weather when communication with the hills greatly ceases, and when the opium produced in the preceding spring harvest has been disposed of. It is then utilised for detective purposes on the Railway line. An important seizure of opium smuggled up from Málwa was made in 1897 by the Umballa staff at Bhatinda Railway Station, and another at Sirhind Railway Station in May 1898, over a maund being siezed in each case. Several syndicates in Patiála territory devote their time to smuggling up opium in this way, occasionally putting in their men to take out contracts as licensed vendors' in British territory.

The gross income from spirits and liquors for 1897-98, was, as noted above, Rs. 88,242, compared with an opium and drugs revenue of Rs. 66,186. Such an income is much above the average, for though Ferozepore, Amritsar and Ráwalpindi have incomes of over a lakh each, and Lahore, has one of about two lakhs, the other districts of the Province have much smaller incomes, dwindling down to Rs. 30,000, Rs. 20,000, Rs. 15,000 and Rs. 10,000, and to even Rs. 5,000 in the case of Rohtak.

The cantonments in Umballa account principally for the high income. The two sums which principally contributed to the gross income of Rs. 88,242 in 1897-98, were Rs. 47,344 on account of license fees for the retail vend of Country and Indo-European spirits, and Rs. 32,780 on account of still-head duty on Country spirits. Of the sum of Rs. 47,344 the monopolists in Umballa cantonments paid Rs. 31,000, leaving only Rs. 16,344 as the amount paid in by other retail vendors in the city and the district. The

sales of the said monopolists also accounted largely for the high figure of still-head duty.

Thus most of the business which engages the time of an Excise Officer lies in Umballa Cantonments and, secondly, in the city. The rural business is comparatively small, as the Umballa agricultural classes, except in Rúpar and Kharar, where there are large Jat communities, are not much addicted to consumption.

There was a great deal of trouble in past years in connection with the retail vend in the cantonments, licenses then being given separately to different contractors. Eventually a monopoly of vend was given to Sálig Ram and Mahesh Dás of Delhi. This firm obtained it for five years at a license fee of Rs. 31,000, but the contract was revised in 1898-99, and only continued for that year. At the same time this firm was given a monopoly of vend for 1898-99 in the city and the whole of the Umballa tahsíl. The revision of the contract in Cantonments was necessitated principally owing to the enhancement of still-head duty on Country spirits. The duty which had been Rs. 2-8-0 per gallon in Umballa was raised to Rs. 3. with effect from the 1st April 1897, and was again raised to Rs. 4, with effect from the 1st April 1898. This raising of still-head duty to Rs. 4 throughout the Province was an important reform, as it levelled up the duty on country spirits with the duty on Indo-European spirits; and at the same time the latter spirits were by Public Notice declared to be "Country spirits" for the future, within the meaning of the definition contained in the Act. These important measures rendered a fresh contract with the monopolists in cantonments desirable, especially as, having to pay an extra rupee on each gallon removed from the distillery, they were dissatisfied with the figure of the license fee (Rs. 31,000).

What will be the result of the measures above-mentioned it is not easy to foresee with certainty, but as all licensed vendors, who previously could only sell Country spirits (made from the pot-still in Government distilleries) under their license, can now sell besides such, rum, whisky and brandy made in private distilleries upon the European system; there is likely to be a run upon these spirits which in the past have been known as Indo-European, and a corresponding decline in the amount of native-made spirit sold.

Signs of this are not wanting in Umballa at present, since the licenses for 1898-99 were given out. Only three stills were at work in the distillery in April.

The Umballa distillery is a disreputable one, and it will be a satisfactory matter when it is closed, as it is likely to be soon.

The removal of the distinction between "Country spirits" and "Indo-European spirits" renders district distilleries far less necessary, and the establishment of two or three distilleries with worm-stills would answer all the needs of the Province; seeing that the issue of sufficient licenses for wholesale vend, enables wholesale dealers to supply the retail trade with sufficient spirits got from any centre of manufacture.

The Umballa distillery has no conveniences, and it is impossible to keep the place clean. There are no satisfactory arrangements for emptying or draining the condensing tanks, nor for filling them with sufficiently cold water, and the means for draining away the spilth from the boilers is wholly inadequate. There is a book file on the subject of the proposed closing of this distillery.

The opportunities for the smuggling of spirits into the district are as considerable as in the case of opium. There is the long line of independent territory to be guarded against, and owing to native-made spirits selling at lower prices in Saháranpur there is risk on the Jumna border also. There is risk on the Náhan side as well, the Excise system of that State being a loose one. When the still-head duty on native-made spirits was raised to Rs. 4 per gallon, the licenses of a number of border shops were fixed by tender, and not by auction, a reasonable license fee being accepted. It was considered important to prevent competition at auctions from driving licensed vendors into selling smuggled liquor. In Rúpar and Kharar illicit stills have to be watched against. They are not easily detected, but there is no doubt that they exist, and that illicit spirit is distilled here and there, especially when the cane is cropped.

The Kalsia State at present farms out its Excise business to the Umballa Deputy Commissioner, receiving a fixed sum in consideration. The lease is for a term of five years. There is a book file on the subject.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

Canals.

The district fails to draw advantage from the two canals having their Head-works within it.

The Sirhind Canal surrenders no water for irrigation at all, unless by escape channels in one or two places; and now (October 1897) that the Pípli tahsil has been elided from the district, all the irrigation the Western Jumna Canal yields is confined to an area in the neighbourhood of Khizrabad. In this area irrigation is obtained from a small *kúl* system, taking off near Rayonwála above the Tajewála Head-works.

The irrigation exists to a large extent in lands which are *jágír*, and the jágírdárs of six villages, having their residence at Khizrabad, get their share, as assignees, of "the owner's-rate" leviable on the whole area irrigated. This owner's-rate (collected by the Canal Department) is paid them in a lump sum annually from the treasury. The amount to be paid is fixed on the average receipts of a past term of years. There is a book file on the subject.

The cultivators or proprietors who irrigate by means of the *kúl* system above-mentioned have protested strongly but in vain against the imposition of "occupiers'-rates" and "owners'-rates." They are the descendants of men who, when the canal was managed without any scientific Head-works, got their water free on the condition that they should furnish labour for repairs to the primitive canal head. Their services are no longer required now that masonry works keep the stream under good control; and though their right to take water for irrigation has not been interfered with, they have been required to pay the usual canal levies. There was a very full correspondence about this matter, and though petitions are still occasionally put in concerning it, a Deputy Commissioner will do well to leave it alone. It has been finally decided in a printed file.

In the drought of 1896-97 villages situated on the Patrála irrigated fields by lift out of the stream. The Canal Department levied a penalty which caused the villagers to complain. The Patrála as an affluent of the Jumna swells the head of water stopped by the canal dam at Dádupur. The penalty was legal enough, for *Punjab Gazette* Notification No. 1259 I, dated 22nd March 1875, dealt with this matter. The Patrála stream from its junction with the canal at Urgni for ten miles up towards its source

was declared a canal under Section 55 of Act VIII of 1873. The following streams were declared subject to control as canals by this Notification :—

1. Main Jumna.
2. Western Branch of Main Jumna.
3. Fandi.
4. Patrála.
5. Somb.
6. Pandhoi Nala.
7. Rakshi.
8. Bambak Nala.
9. Patasgurh.
10. Damla Drainage.

Nos. 3 and 4 are streams flowing in the delta formed by the Jumna and Somb. The latter river meets the Jumna at Dádupur. The other streams or spills are ones which taking shape in the Jagádhri tahsíl flow down through the Pípli flats.

CHAPTER XXIX.

DI-ALLUVION RULES ON THE WESTERN JUMANA CANAL.

The current di-alluvion rules of the district after sanction by the Financial Commissioner were communicated under cover of Commissioner's endoresement No. 70, dated 4th February 1891.

The rules were drawn up for Pípli and Jagádhri but (see paragraph 152 of Mr. Kensington's Final Settlement Report) are applicable to the whole district, dealing with the Sutlej and Jumna and hill-torrents, and also the villages on the Western Jumna Canal.

This last point is apt to be overlooked by Tahsíldárs. It was overlooked for some years succeeding the settlement, but the opening of the Indri-Sirsa Branch of the Western Jumna Canal created unusual necessity for application of the rules.

When the Indri-Sirsa Branch was opened an increased supply had to be run down the main canal through the regulators at Tájewala and Dádupur. The increased volume caused an appreciable rise in the water-levels on either side of the canal from the Head-works down to Indri, especially where the bed passed through lowlying lands. There was, moreover, considerable surface flooding in such places, and where there was not actual surface flooding there was often water-logging of the soil caused by percolation. Considerable areas in several villages such as Mumida, Mumidi, and Chalaundi were rendered unfit for cultivation. Remissions of land-revenue had to be granted under the di-alluvion rules. The first considerable amount of relief granted was after the rains of 1894-95 ; and the Financial Commissioner then ordered that an annual notice of the amount of remissions granted should be inserted in the Land Revenue Report under the head " Canal and Drainage Act " (see Commissioner's endorsement No. 872, dated 19th August 1896, in book file).

This notice was required particularly for the information of the Canal Department, it being intended that that department should take steps to prevent water-logging and surface flooding, wherever the amount of remission showed that land was continuing to be spoilt.

Much of the surface flooding has been stopped by high banking, but to deal with water-logging other measures are needed. The canal bed is the reverse of straight, being full of curves and loops. There is thus an unnecessary amount of percolation, which affects the water-levels, bringing them up to near the level of

the ground in the vicinity of the canal. These levels might be reduced if chord cuts were made where loops now exist. Such a chord cut was made just below the North-Western Railway bridge over the canal at Abdullapur, in the famine season of 1897. There are other points at which similar chord cuts could be made with advantage. There is a very full note on this subject by Mr. Higham to be found on the Umballa file. He considered that these improvements should be undertaken concurrently with the amount of damage shown to be done : and he also considered that these re-alignments made a superior call on canal resources than the demand for improved cross communications, the re-alignments being the more important question of the two.

There is a separate book file concerning bridges and ferries, of the insufficiency or inefficiency of which the villagers often loudly complain.

The tendency of Mr. Higham's note is to shelve the question of communications in favour of the re-alignment scheme, but the people concerned are extremely anxious that it should not be shelved.

Since 1894-95 there have been no great remissions of revenue on account of land spoilt, and money for re-alignments may not be budgetted for in consequence.

* * * * *

A case of application of the di-alluvion rules in connection with the Sirhind Canal may be mentioned. Near the Ludhiána boundary the Sirhind Canal passes through the lands of four or five villages, which it has bisected. (They are Katlaur, Kandaula, Haron, Ráipur, and another). The canal follows the high bank of the Sutlej. The villages thus have *bangar* lands on one side of the canal and *bet* lands on the other. The canal embankment stops sand-drift on the *bangar* side, and sandhills have thus injured some of the *bangar* lands, while the *bet* lands have been to some extent injured by percolation from the canal.

Orders were passed by Government (see printed book file) allowing remission under the di-alluvion rules for areas spoilt by sand-drift and water-logging.

Remissions were granted by an Assistant Commissioner (Mr. Hamilton) in 1896, and can, if need be, be granted again.

CHAPTER XXX.

Bridges and Ferries on the Western Jumna Canal.

Any District Officer, especially a new one, when camping near the Western Jumna Canal, is likely to receive emergent petitions concerning the want of bridges or ferries for cross communication. Many villages have their lands fairly bisected by the canal, and the difficulty of getting at the far lands for purposes of cultivation is considerable. The lands on the side where the *ábádi* stands can be properly cultivated, but to get carts and ploughs to and from the far lands is the difficulty. The difficulty cannot be classed as one of recent standing, as the Western Jumna Canal was constructed in its first form about the middle of the fourteenth century, when the Emperor Firoz Shah Tughlak brought water by ducts past Karnál to Hissár. Means of cross communication have always been absent. Cattle going to the far side to graze have been accustomed to swim over, and the villagers thereabouts take to water like ducks.

But probably the cultivation of the far lands was not attempted to the extent that it is now, after modern settlements were introduced. Moreover, the passage across the canal was not so difficult in older days. Improved head-works and extensions of the irrigation system created a deeper flow, and the opening of the Indri-Sirsa Branch in recent years made the canal far more impassable by reason of the increased volume then carried down.

It was the opening of this branch which revived the outcry for improved communications, and certainly in the matter of bridges the villagers seem to have cause for complaint.

There are bridges at Dádúpur, Amádalpur, and Fattehpur, but there is no bridge below this last place until Radaur is reached, the distance in between being very many miles. The argument of the Canal Department is that bridges are only imperative where trade roads cross the canal. There are elaborate notes on the subject to be found on the Umballa file recorded by Colonel Ottley and Mr. Higham. From a District Officer's point of view the note by the former officer is likely to be considered harsh. The gist of it is that as the villagers have done without cross communications since the time of Akbar and earlier they should be able to do without them now. The latter officer admits more freely the responsibility of the Canal Department and gives more assurance of redress.

He does not advocate expensive bridges ; but pontoon-ferries, wherever required, and wherever the current allows them to ply, are guaranteed.

One result, too, of the representations made by the District Officer in 1895 was that the Canal Department accepted defrayment of the working expenses of ferries, some of which had previously been financed by the villagers themselves.

Búriya has agitated persistently for a pontoon-bridge. It was suggested by the Canal Department, once, that the pontoon-bridge at Amádalpur should be removed and placed at Búriya, but it is to be hoped that one will eventually be obtained for Búriya without such removal. The Amádalpur one was only obtained after lively agitation about the time of last settlement.

There used to be a bridge at Jaidhri (above Dádúpur), but it was washed away. Agitation for a new one is persistent. There is a ferry here at present. A bridge if constructed would have to be a suspension one. A pontoon-bridge could not stand the current at this point.

Mumida has constantly petitioned for a bridge, and in 1897 when land was acquired for a chord cut made to straighten the canal bed near Abdullapur, this village, and others, refused land compensation to the sum of about Rs. 2,000, asking that the money should be deposited towards the expenses of a bridge. This led to a guarantee that a bridge would be erected if one-third of the cost was subscribed. Government guaranted two-thirds of the outlay. The District Board agreed to pay a lump sum down. The refused compensation was also kept in deposit towards the expenses of the scheme. A bridge at Mumida may therefore be expected at no very distant date. The office file (1898) shows only the first preliminaries regarding the provision of funds.

It might be considered that with bridges provided at all points where trade routes cross the canal and with ferries guaranteed at other crossings, the necessities of the neighbourhood are sufficiently provided for. But it must be considered that ferries, unless they are pontoon-ferries, fail to meet the requirements of the villagers, and that even pontoon-ferries can scarcely meet the demand for the passage of carts laden with manure or produce.

Pontoon-bridges are not extremely expensive. The Amádalpur one cost, it is believed, about Rs. 18,000, and the estimate for the one at Mumida is about Rs. 25,000. These sums are insignificant compared with the annual profits made by the canal.

It was once suggested that instead of supplying bridges it would be cheaper for Government to buy up the severed lands of

villages, selling them again to villages which could absorb them as home-side lands. This would amount to an interchange of lands, and a re-arrangement of boundaries all down the canal, ending in the canal itself being made the boundary of all the riverain lands. Such an adjustment would be exceedingly difficult in the case of some individual villages, but it would be possible without much difficulty in many cases. In some cases villages might give their severed lands in exchange for the severed lands of the villages opposite with advantage to all concerned, and the wonder is that mutual leases on cash rents of such lands are not often agreed on between villages. * * * *

Since the above was written the Commissioner has, under his endorsement No. 390, dated 22nd April 1898, sent down correspondence showing that Government in the Irrigation Department is prepared to concede a bridge at Búriya estimated at Rs. 30,000; provided half the money is locally furnished, that is to say, in suggested sums of Rs. 5,000 from the District Board, and Rs. 10,000 from the Búriya Municipality.

Note may also be made of an accident which occurred at the Jaidhri ferry about June 1898. The ferry boat capsized and some women were reported to have been drowned. This event might be put forward as another argument in favor of a bridge. The current at Jaidhri is often very rapid.

CHAPTER XXXI.

RESTORATIONS AND ACQUISITIONS OF LAND ON THE WESTERN JUMNA CANAL.

This canal, being to a great extent merely a canalised river, has in many places no very well-defined banks. Villages on the banks are, as has been mentioned elsewhere, entitled to the benefit of the di-alluvion rules in the case of lands eroded, flooded, or water-logged. They cannot claim damages from the Canal Department, but they obtain remissions of revenue.

The stream of water, flowing as it does through low lands and between banks so low that artificial banking is often required to prevent surface flowing, gives no little trouble. Land is often required for banking purposes, diversions are not unseldom made, and consequently acquisitions of and relinquishments of land are matters of fairly common occurrence.

It is very seldom that there are not cases of one or the other class pending.

The relinquishments require special treatment, as the Rule XXXVIII of Revenue Circular No. 54 regarding the abandonment of lands permanently acquired, does not altogether meet the case. It is difficult to tell when the land composing the bed of the canal was originally acquired, seeing that the canal was a restoration of an original construction dating from the time of Muhammadan rule, and it is certain that except in recent cases of acquisition compensation was not paid.

The whole question of relinquishments was fully discussed by the late Colonel Wace, whose instructions, approved by Government, are embodied in letter No. 4820, dated 9th July 1886, from the Financial Commissioner's Office to the Commissioner (see book file). The gist of these instructions is that lands no longer required will be relinquished through the agency of the civil authorities, who, whether the original owners can be traced or not, will restore them to the contiguous riparian owners, charging no price for them, unless compensation was paid originally. In the majority of cases, therefore, the land goes back gratis.

Colonel Wace deprecated the retention, by the Canal Department, of lands no longer required, considering that they should be restored without delay. In some cases considerable areas (such as beds disused) had been retained and given out on cultivating leases. Such leases lead to complications, as the tenants who may not be the rightful reversioners are difficult to displace.

Colonel Wace suggested the grant of grazing leases only, when for special reasons disused areas required to be kept under canal control.

These relinquishments often give a good deal of trouble both in the matter of measurements not agreeing, in the decision concerning the rightful reversioners, and in the displacement of tenants who have acquired a hold. The assessment to land revenue has also to be disposed of.

Acquisition cases are perhaps more common than restoration cases and are as troublesome. Land is constantly being taken up for banking or other purposes ; and when measurements have to be checked by Tahsíldárs in the presence of a canal subordinate, there are often long delays. Delays occur again in the matter of awards and the payment of compensation. The Revenue Assistant (being empowered to pass awards as a Collector) is entrusted with these cases, or occasionally an Assistant Commissioner : but owing to changes of staff, these cases, if not watched, are in danger of being left unadjusted. To see that the cases are properly wound up, the Superintendent of the Vernacular Office has been required to maintain a register showing the date of the Notifications authorising acquisition ; dates when awards were passed, and dates of payment of compensation. It should be his business to overhaul all files and see that they are complete ; to see that copies of awards have been sent to the Examiner of Public Works Accounts, that proper receipts are taken, and so on ; and that sums of compensation are not left outstanding or credited into revenue deposit for indefinite periods. The sanction recently given to the sending of sums of compensation by money order should now facilitate the winding up of such accounts.

CHAPTER XXXII.

FORESTS.

The only Government forest in the district is the Kalesar one, situated in the extreme north-east of the district. For a description see page 84 of the Gazetteer, 1892-93. There is also a small Government plantation near the North-Western Railway bridge over the Jumna.

There was a proposal elaborated in 1888 to constitute the Morni forests as reserved forests by agreement with the Mír of Kotaha, but Government in July 1890 eventually abandoned the reservation scheme see pages 84 to 87 of Gazetteer).

The two forest divisions with which the Deputy Commissioner of Umballa has occasional correspondence are :—

(1). The Simla division which is controlled by a Deputy Conservator of Forests having his head-quarters at Simla (Kalesar in the cold weather). The revenue districts in his charge are Simla and Umballa. There are no rivers in his charge. Timber is floated down the canal.

(2). The Bashahr division controlled by a Deputy Conservator having his head-quarters at Kilba and Simla. In his charge are the leased forests of Bashahr and the Jullundur and Ludhiána revenue districts, and the river Sutlej from the hills to the boundaries of the Montgomeny district. It is in connection with river work that occasional correspondence with this officer occurs.

The Kalesar forest consists of one valley lying between two long spurs of the Siwáliks, which terminate on the Jumna bank. Behind the northernmost spur lies the Kyadir Dún in Náhan territory, which corresponds with the Dehra Dún across the river. A rogue elephant crossed over to the Umballa side in 1886 and caused some trouble. The forest is a *sal* one, but the *sal* is poor, for not only is this the furthest limit, west, of the *sal* habitat, but the forest has perpetually suffered from fire. The *sal* is undersized, but efforts are being made to weed out the bad timber and give the good a proper chance.

The boundaries of the forest largely march with Náhan and Kalsia boundaries. To protect the forest a wide road was cleared by fire in 1887. The firing was commenced by Mr. Hart

and completed by Mr. Mayes. The road to be fired was 30 miles long, and it was done in reaches of six miles at a time. It runs along the crest of the hills forming the valley in which the forest lies, and is often from 200 to 400 yards wide. To provide against internal fires there are several fire lines 60 feet wide, but Forest Officers say that the best way to deal with such fires is by counterfiring.

At present the forest is run at a loss. One item of expenditure which may be mentioned is an annual sum of Rs. 455 payable to the Khizarabad jágírdárs.

Dhulíp Singh, the lambardár and owner (with his relations) of Kalesar village, which is split up into six *ábádís* at the mouth of the valley, is apt to press an imaginary grievance on Deputy Commissioners' attention.

The grievance is imaginary, as the dispute between him and the Forest Department was, after prolonged correspondence, and a demarcation, adjusted some years ago. No point is left unsettled. There is an elaborate precis of the case drawn up by an Assistant Commissioner (Mr. French) on the Umballa file.

A forest working-scheme, to cover probably about 10 years, is now (1898) being drawn up by Mr. Hart.

The best place inside the forest to camp in is Paniáli, which is some miles up the valley, on the left bank of the Sukh Rau which drains the valley.

The spring there only fails in exceptionally dry seasons. It is hard to find water elsewhere. There is a good map of the forest in the office on the scale of 4 inches to a mile.

Kalesar itself is easily reached. A *tonga* can be driven up the whole way, and probably carts could go up with a little trouble. *Ekkás* use the road, which after reaching Kalesar passes along the Jumna bank on to Paunta tahsíl head-quarters in Náhan.

CHAPTER XXXIII.

POLICE DISTRIBUTION.

The Police in the district come under the following heads:—

1. Provincial.
2. Municipal.
3. Cantonment.
4. Ferry.

As to "Provincial," the duty state on the 30th June 1897 stood as follows, as compared with "Established Strength":—

	Duty State.	*Established Strength.*
Inspectors	3	3
Deputy Inspectors	23	25
Sergeants	86	86
Probationer	1	1
Mounted Constables	7	7
Foot Constables	505	506
Total of all grades ...	625	628

Total of all grades in 1896 was 656; 4 Sergeants and 24 Constables, who composed the jail guard, were reduced in 1897, an irregular guard of men enlisted by the Jail Department being substituted.

The elision of the Pípli tahsíl to Karnál, with effect from the 1st of October 1897, necessitated a revision of establishment, and in the proposition statement sent up by the District Superintendent of Police the maintenance of the following police force was asked for:—

2	Inspectors.
19	Deputy Inspectors.
72	Sergeants.
1	Probationer.
7	Mounted Constables.
410	Foot Constables.
511	Total of all grades

Out of the total of 625 of all grades present on the 30th June 1897, 319 of all grades were allocated on rural duty. Rural duty includes all thánás, outposts, roadposts, and sub-treasury guards.

Thánás are kept at a strength generally of 1 Deputy Inspector, 2 Sergeants, and 12 Constables (1st class), and 1 Deputy Inspector, 1 Sergeant, and 8 Constables (2nd class).

Out of the half of the Provincial force not on rural duty, the various duties of guards on buildings and patrols, &c , &c., absorbed the services of all but 75 (of all ranks).

Considering the heavy calls which are frequently made on the local force for escort of treasure, remittances to and from the busy treasury of Umballa, and the sudden occasional requisitions made for the deputation of small bodies to other districts, the balance of men kept "present" in the lines is none too large ; as religious festivals which so frequently occur in this district occasion regular demands for reinforcements at particular places.

Looking at the distribution figures cursorily, one would be inclined to consider the rural allotment insufficient ; but it would be difficult to increase it without improperly depleting the needful reserve.

Along with the Pípli tahsíl six thánás and one outpost left the district, but the force allotted to the district should remain large enough to allow of almost as large a reserve as before, because the many duties and calls at a busy head-quarters are only very indirectly affected by the elision of a tahsíl.

MUNICIPAL POLICE.

Regular police are entertained only by the municipalities of Umballa and Jagádhri; Búriya entertaining a Sergeant who is in control of 15 "watchmen."

Umballa entertains 1 Deputy Inspector, 5 Sergeants, and 48 Constables.

Jagádhri entertains 4 Sergeants and 27 Constables.

Búriya entertains 1 Sergeant and 15 "Town watchmen," as distinct from Constables.

Sadhaura is a town which at one time supported "Municipal Police," but the arrangement was ended on financial grounds. The town is larger than Búriya and gives a good deal of trouble. It might be properly policed if the Municipal Funds were at all kept up to the possible level. The correspondence on the subject should, however, be consulted before any fresh steps are taken.

CANTONMENT POLICE.

The force in cantonments paid out of Cantonment Funds, consists of 144 of all grades. It is an Inspector's charge, and

the Inspector should always be an European or Eurasian What has been urged more than once is that the number of Constables in this force might advantageously be reduced, the number of Sergeants or Deputy Inspectors being increased. The force is large enough, but the staff of officers is considered low.

When the contingent of Sowárs supplied for many years by Patiála was withdrawn, it was arranged that three of the Mounted Constables of the Police force should be under the orders of the Deputy Commissioner, for carrying despatches at the sadr and in camp. There is correspondence on this matter. The long distance messages have to be sent over at Umballa, render the services of mounted men a necessity. Further allusion is made to this matter in another chapter.

Taking the Police force as a whole, it is (if not depleted, as is too often the case, by calls from outside) sufficient for the needs of the district. There has been no disturbance which the police on the spot could not easily control in the last five years. The cantonment police force is strong enough, and so is the force in Umballa city, to deal with all possible emergencies, the presence of a strong military garrison making any ebullitions of disorder of an organised kind highly improbable.

Mention may be made of the irregular guard on the jail. There is a file of correspondence showing how this guard came to be substituted for a regular police guard. The same experiment has been made in Delhi and Lahore, and is said to show success. But at these two places there is always an officer of the I. M. D. in charge. At Umballa long intervals have occurred in which the jail has been in charge of Assistant Surgeons. The guard contains one or two old soldiers who are intended to drill the men and look after their arms and accoutrements. Well looked after, such a guard may do well, but otherwise there is danger of its becoming ill-disciplined and careless. There are printed books containing the night and day duties.

As to road posts, a special note may be made of the Abdullapur-Jagádhri road, which has posts for furnishing patrols. This is a lonely road, and rich merchants travelling from the station to the town are a temptation to professional robbers. On more than one occasion there has been robbery with violence on this road, and the road police should carry buckshot ammunition.

CHAPTER XXXIV.

RAILWAY JURISDICTION.

The North-Western Railway and the Delhi-Umballa-Kálka Railway pass largely through foreign territory, and jurisdiction within such lands occupied by the railways has been ceded by the States concerned.

The Notification regarding the North-Western Railway is No. 1503 I., dated 7th May 1868, *Gazette of India* of 8th idem. (See Appendices to Act XXI of 1879, Rattigan's Acts, Edition 1897). The jurisdiction of the Umballa Magistracy over this line of rail extends from mile No. 1046, telegraph post 11, at the Jumna bridge between Jagádhri and Sarsawa, to mile 969, telegraph post 22, between the Railway stations of Sirhind and Khanna; some 30 miles of the rail between Umballa station and Khanna being in foreign territory. This length of line is policed by the Punjab Railway Police. There is an Inspector stationed at Sahåranpur, in whose charge this length of line lies. The Railway stations of Umballa and Rájpura are, within the range of distant signals, included in this police charge; outside of which, in the case of the Delhi-Umballa-Kálka Railway lands, the North-Western Provinces Railway Police have charge, and in the case of the Rájpura-Bhatinda Railway, the Patiála Police. The jurisdiction of the Umballa Magistracy does not extend over the last named line. Cases are taken before the Patiála Courts and the line is policed by Patiála Police.

In the case of the Delhi-Umballa-Kálka Railway, the jurisdiction of the Umballa Magistracy extends from mile 123 to mile 154, that is to say, from the point where the Railway enters the district from the Thánesar side, to close to Kálka, intervening areas of Kalsia and Patiála territory being included. (See Government of India Notification No. 4196, dated 15th October 1891). The line is policed by the North-Western Provinces Railway Police, the head-quarters of whose Deputy Inspector-General is at Allahabad; and an European Inspector of this force is stationed at Umballa Cantonments Railway Station.

CHAPTER XXXV.

Arms Licenses.

In 1894 there were the following licenses out in the district :—

Form No. XI. For crops		266
Form No. VIII. Ordinary—		
To Jágírdárs or retainers	464	
To others	146	610
		876

The figures for 1895 were —

Form No. XI		131
Form No. VIII—		
Jágírdárs and retainers	439	
To others	130	569
		700

The renewal of licenses year by year is undertaken by the officer in charge of the treasury : fresh applications being referred to the Deputy Commissioner. It is not clear why the number of licenses under Form XI was so much reduced in 1895. The probabilities are that many more licenses for the protection of crops are needed, especially near the Siwáliks ; while it is certain that a great many unnecessary licenses are in force under Form VIII.

With the jágírdárs it is considered a matter of moment to get as many licenses as possible, and these are largely applied for on behalf of retainers. Some of the major jágírdárs will be found to have obtained licenses for a dozen or more arms. To have armed retainers about the fort is considered a desirable species of display ; and doubtless many of the Sardárs have old guns handed down from old times, which they are constantly attempting to obtain the requisite number of licenses to cover. Additions to the number of licenses are continually being applied for. The applications should be granted sparingly, as if one family increases its number another wishes to do so and so on.

Petty jágírdárs are also continually applying for licenses, on the specious pretext of protecting life or protecting crops. As a matter of fact they generally want the guns for display at marriages and social gatherings, or for sporting purposes. A distinction is drawn between licenses for sporting purposes and others, but it is doubtful whether it is much observed. The Sikh jágírdárs and Rájpút zamíndárs are fond of shooting, and certainly the district has been denuded of hares and partridges in most parts in a wonderful way. Every year a mass of applications for new licenses is put in. Rejections must be freely made. Generally speaking, the simplest rule seems to be to grant licenses to men of social importance and respectability, and in cases of necessity. The difficulty, however, is to tell when the need for protecting crops in genuinely expressed.

In the Morni tract, on the occasion of a Deputy Commissioner's visit, many applications are always made. These are doubtless made to meet a genuine need.

If it were possible to regulate the number of licenses to be possessed by the major jágírdárs, to distribute a fair number of licenses for the protection of crops in the belts of villages much visited by wild animals, and to call in unnecessary licenses held otherwise, the issue of licenses might then proceed upon some definite basis. But the difficulties of any such an undertaking would be great.

The figures for licenses in force during 1896 and 1897 were as follows :—

Year.	Licenses on Form No. XI for Crops.	Licenses on Form No. VII—Ordinary.			Grand Total.
		To Jágírdárs or retainers.	To others.	Total.	
1896	199	455	106	561	760
1897	149	399	85	484	633

CHAPTER XXXVI.

PROJECTED MAJOR PUBLIC WORKS.

A Committee presided over by the Financial Commissioner, which sat at the time of the famine of 1896-97 to consider the needs of divisions in the way of improved communications, fixed on the following roads in Umballa as ones desirable to metal :—

(1) The route from Samrála through Morinda, Kharar, and Mani Májra to Chandigarh.

(2) The road from Rúpar to Kharar.

(3) Either the road from Umballa city through Panjokhra and Shahzádpur to Naráingarh.

Or the road from Barára Railway Station to Sadhaura.

Umballa, unlike Ludhiána, has never been opened up by metalled roads. The physical features of the Naráingarh and Jagádhri tahsíls are against such enterprises. Roads become breached and obliterated. The road from Umballa city to Naráingarh *viâ* Shahzádpur disappears beyond Panjokhra into the sands of the Tangri. It recovers itself again further on, but is widely breached by sandy beds at intervals before Shahzádpur is reached. The road from Umballa city to Sadhaura direct, *viâ* Boh, Pilkni, and Lálpur, is abandoned and obliterated, though plainly marked in maps of 1861.

The direct road from Sahárianpur to Umballa cantonment *viâ* Jagádhri, Chhappar, and Mulána, is abandoned, at Chhappar, by troops, probably on account of the devastations of the Márkanda around Mulána. Troops turn from Chhappar down to Shahabad, and thence move up the Grand Trunk Road to Umballa.

The road from Naráingarh to Sadhaura is broken up by the hill-torrents. The sections on from Sadhaura to Bilászpur and Jagádhri have not suffered so badly.

In a tract of this nature it is hard to attempt metalled roads.

But the case of Rúpar is not so bad. The two roads which have been mentioned could be constructed and maintained without disproportionate cost. The route from Samrála (Ludhiána) through Kharar and Mani Májra to Kálka is a great trade route. Grain for Simla and the hill cantonments passes through this channel in abundance. The road is metalled as far as Samrála in Ludhiána, and it is the dream of the Kharar and Rúpar traders to have the metalling carried through to the Kálka road. Again the linking up of the Rúpar-Kharar section would be a

boon to the great trade centre of Kurali. Plans and estimates for the metalling of these roads have been considered by the Public Works Department.

As to a metalled road for the Naráingarh tahsíl, the Rája of Náhan is anxious to get a through tonga road. One from Jagádhri to Kala Am *viâ* Biláspur and Sadhaura was spoken of. But the road from Umballa city *viâ* Shahzádpur and Naráingarh seems the natural route. The beds of sand to be crossed could be decreased if the approaches were re-aligned, so that beds should be crossed at right angles. The Public Works Department is inclined to favour the metalling of the road from Barára to Sadhaura.

The Public Works Department calls periodically for proposals in the way of major works of this kind, and crude proposals have been made for an indefinite number of years. Now that there are three proposals approved by high authority, it would be well to pin the Public Works Department down to these only, until funds are allotted.

The initial expense of metalling these roads could only be met from Provincial Funds. The District Board could contribute an annual maintenance grant.

The correspondence concerning these projects can be traced from the letters quoted in the footnote.

NOTE.—Commissioner's endorsement No. 105 L. F., dated 10th March 1898.

Resolution No. 1, dated 24th March 1898, passed by the District Board, Umballa.

It may also be noted that since the above was written the Public Works Department has declared itself in favor of metalling the road from Rupar to Kharar or Morinda, and then on to Sirhind; instead of linking up metalled connection between Samrala and Kharar. There is a detailed opinion favoring this later scheme written by the Secretary to Government in the Public Works Department which will be found in the Local Funds Office.

CHAPTER XXXVII.

THE LOCAL FUNDS OFFICE.

The Local Funds Office and the Local Public Works Agency were subject to a good many vicissitudes for several years. As to the Public Works establishment, there were in 1888-89 two Overseers, and a Sub-Overseer and the tahsíl Mistrís. One Overseer was dispensed with in the middle of this year. A District Engineer on Rs. 200 was appointed on the 1st March 1890. He was only kept on four months. The second Overseer was dismissed in May 1890. In June 1890 a Superintendent of Roads was appointed. In July 1890 an additional Sub-Overseer was appointed—

At the end of 1890-91 the staff consisted of—

	Rs.
1 Road Superintendent on	100 + 30
1 Sub-Overseer on	50 + 15
1 Ditto	30 + 15
1 Ditto	25 + 15

There were Mistrís in addition at tahsíls. Two of the Sub-Overseers were dispensed with in 1891-92, and a Draftsman was entertained. The staff, as subsequently revised, consisted of—

	Rs.
1 Road Superintendent on	80 + 15
1 Sub-Overseer on	70 + 15
1 Draftsman on	20

There were Mistrís at tahsíls in addition.

At the end of 1892, one Mr. Collis was Secretary of the Local Funds Office, and his son was Road Superintendent, and there was a Sub-Overseer. The Deputy Commissioner (Mr. Gladstone), who held charge of the district for a period previous to this date, had vigorously prosecuted public works, and when the staff with which he worked is considered, it may be believed, as this office has in some place noted, that he spent about eight months of the year out in camp. It may be also understood that he himself saw personally to the execution of works as much as if, besides being Deputy Commissioner, he was District Engineer. Main district roads were in his time raised out of flood reach throughout their lengths. Road-raising, tree-planting, and land reclamation, proceeded with vigour. The Collises, father and son, were kept continually on the move. The former had also the Head-quarters

Office to look after as Secretary. He was not fit for this work moreover, being 60 years old and suffering from failing sight. As a consequence, though public works progressed, the office went to pieces, and a caution received in 1893 caused it to be overhauled. Mr. Collis senior was retired on a gratuity after six years' charge, and a good accountant being considered desirable for the proper arrangement and audit of Local Funds accounts, Bábu Rajindra Náth Dey, the Head Treasury Clerk, was appointed Secretary of Local Funds. Such a man seemed needed in the office, as there had been some extraordinary bungles over contracts towards the end of Mr. Collis' tenure. About Rs. 10,000 had to be paid in 1893-94 to adjust claims reaching back sometimes to 1890 and 1891. There were perplexing difficulties in connection with sales of road-side trees which were not adjusted for a very long time. It was demonstrated that in view of the amount of pure office work required in these days, it is impossible to appoint one man to the combined office of District Engineer and Secretary of Local Funds. The need for keeping these offices totally distinct was well apparent. After Mr. Collis junior left the district, two Overseers, who had retired from the P. W. D., were entertained, and the staff was arranged as follows:—

(1) A Secretary.

(2) 1 Overseer in charge of a Circle.

(3) " " " "

(4) Tahsíl Mistrís.

(5) Tahsíl Beldárs.

The Secretary was required to do nothing but pure office work and audit accounts. The office was eventually put into excellent order.

As to the Public Works Agency, it is probable that the system of having trained Overseers in charge of Circles, with tahsíl mistrís and gangs of beldárs under them, cannot be easily improved upon. A European Engineer and a highly paid Secretary cannot well be entertained at the same time. Moreover, the appointment of a European Engineer at the head of a District Public Works Agency is an arrangement which has rarely met with success. Gangs of tahsíl beldárs were first entertained in the district, a good many years ago, perhaps by Mr. Leslie Smith. The idea is to have the tahsíl gangs of labourers under the tahsíl mistrís, and the mistrís under the Overseers. The beldárs can repair the breaches in the *kacha* roads, so numerous in a sub-montane district owing to rain action. To supervise their gangs the mistrís should be mounted, and provision for this was once made by the District Board. The Overseers, again, should keep the mistrís up to their work,

and plan and estimate for any special and original works. The strength of the gangs of beldárs was reduced during the drought of 1896-97, but previously 1 mate and 20 beldárs were entertained at each tahsíl. At present the numbers vary. Their pay is a heavy charge, and they are a dead loss to the District Board if allowed to regard themselves as so many *pension-khwárs*. This was the way in which one Tahsíldár regarded them; and this idea is encouraged, if Tahsíldárs use the men as punkha-coolies and general servants, as more than one Tahsíldár has wished to do.

Ordinary Works.

It is believed that on the above lines a Public Works Agency can be organised competent to deal with the ordinary works the District Board undertakes. The Overseers can plan and estimate for minor bridges and culverts and minor buildings, and for the metalling of roads; and such works are then executed on contract. The repair of *kacha* roads by simple earthwork is the province of the beldárs.

Gaps.

Persistent breaches are made in roads, which cannot always be repaired by ordinary earthwork; as a water-way for the flood water must be provided. These breaches occur in numbers whenever roads run counter to the direction taken by the natural drainage of the tract. Mr. Gladstone adopted "gaps" or "Irish bridges" as remedies for these breaches on main roads. The breaches were not filled up, but given a masonry flooring for flood water to pass over. These "gaps" may not be as expensive as bridges, but they are not cheap. Many thousands of rupees were spent on them. On the Barara-Sadhaura road there are a number of these "gaps." On minor cart roads wooden bridges often suffice to span the breaches. In the Local Funds Office there is a military hand-book giving instructions for making trestle-bridges and frame-bridges. A great many of the breaches could be rendered passable by simple bridges of this kind, which would be removed in the rains.

Station Roads.

The up-keep of these roads calls for constant attention and expense. The provincial grant when the management was localised was too small. There is a file of correspondence which passed in 1897 on the subject. The District Board now gets Rs. 1,800 per annum.

Abdullapur-Jagadhri Road.

This metalled road, over which there is much traffic, has been a great expense to the District Board. Properly the Jagádhri Municipality should contribute largely to its maintenance. There is a file on the subject of how the road should be financed, both Jagádhri and Búriya contributing. The section from Jagádhri to Chachrauli has of late years been maintained by Kalsia; the District Board granting an annual subsidy.

Kankar Quarries.

The out-turn of the known *kankar* quarries in the neighbourhood varies greatly. In contracts it is best to specify the quarry to be used. There are papers in the office showing the different quarries and their quality of yield. The Sarsáwa quarry on the Sahåranpur side of the Jumna has been condemned as worthless.

Tanks.

Grants-in-aid for the excavation of village tanks are continually petitioned for by villagers when a Deputy Commissioner is in camp. There was a deal of discussion about the utility of these tanks when programmes of relief works were being considered by Government during the famine of 1896-97. The inclusion of tanks in such programmes had been regarded rather as padding. Strong representations as to the utility of tanks were made by the Deputy Commissioners of Hissár and Umballa. They will be found printed in the Provincial Report of the Famine of 1896-97, a copy of which is in the office. The villagers may be trusted to know what they really want; and when petitions for aid in the matter of tanks out-number all other petitions of the class connected with Public Works, it may be understood that the possession of a good tank is to a village a first necessity. When villagers first put a lump sum down, the District Board has been accustomed to grant an equal amount of added money. Nothing makes the country side more contented then a liberal outlay by the District Board on village tanks.

Protective Works.

Another form of aid villages very constantly petition for, is aid in the way of protective works to obviate the erosion caused by the numerous *nadis* or *chos* coming down from the Siwáliks. The damage caused is great, and village sites are constantly threatened. Unfortunately such schemes are often expensive, and petitions for aid are numerous. In some cases important village sites have been saved, *e.g.*, Sadhaura and

Shahzádpur. Dams or spurs, strengthened and consolidated by plantations of *bind-pula* grass, were constructed to divert the stream.

Programmes of Relief Works.

These programmes were closely criticised in 1896-97 by Government. There is a file of correspondence on the subject. The programmes that had passed muster before the famine set in, contained a list of roads, and of protective works required by many villages; but when the programmes came to be overhauled, it was found that many of the roads would yield very little relief labour; and as to the protective works, such could not be undertaken without there being accepted plans to start with. The opinion generally arrived at during the progress of the famine was that earth-work on *kacha* roads was unsuited for relief labour besides being often a mere waste of money. It cannot therefore be said that any good programme of relief works exists in this district.

Tanks yield a good form of relief labour, and there is no necessity for plans and estimates beforehand. Therefore beyond some very few roads which have been accepted as fit for relief works the district programme includes no schemes beyond the digging of tanks.

The Horse Fair.

A horse fair was established by Mr. Gladstone during his term of office. It takes place annually about March. A number of Arab pony stallions were introduced, and have been kept on for several years, and quality has slowly improved. But up to date the district has produced few animals at the fairs, fit to be purchased for remounts. The Civil Veterinary Department does not yet consider the district fit to receive many horse stallions. The inclination of the zamíndárs to breed requires constant fostering, and care has been taken to make the horse fair as conspicuous a public event as possible.

Abolition of Local Boards.

Sanction to the abolition of Local Boards and the reconstruction of the District Board was granted by Government in about 1896, and the Local Boards will cease to exist after June 1898.

CHAPTER XXXVIII.

Nazul Properties.

In Proceedings of the Honorable the Lieutenant-Governor in the Financial Department, No. 940, dated 3rd April 1884, the transfer of *nazúl* properties to local bodies was discussed. The Commissioner by his Circular No 107, dated the 5th April 1884, asked District Officers to submit lists preparatory to such transfer. Umballa submitted two lists with the remark that the papers had not yet been laid before the District Board for scrutiny and acceptance. In the lists all properties were not individually detailed, such entries being made as "61 plots of land," "10 towers," &c., &c. These entries seem to have been gleaned from an old vernacular register of unclaimed properties, prepared in or about the year 1864.

Subsequently, in forwarding a copy of a Resolution passed by the District Board towards the acceptance of management of provincial properties to be transferred, the Deputy Commissioner, as regards *nazúl* properties, remarked that the lists of these, prepared in 1864, seemed to be very rough and ready ones, requiring verification, revision, and addition. The Commissioner admitted that this was the case, and he requested that all properties should be individually dealt with, instead of being lumped together in lots; each being distinguished by name and topographical position. It was then replied that very thorough enquiry would have to be made.

Consequently Government (see printed letter No. 3193, dated 15th December 1885, to the Commissioner), while transferring ferries, pounds, &c., to the management of the District Board, as in the case of other districts; decided not to transfer *nazúl* properties in the case of the district of Umballa.

The Deputy Commissioner was then called upon to put the registers into proper order.

Orders were passed by different Deputy Commissioners, in 1884, 1886, 1887, 1889, 1890; and then the matter apparently dropped out of notice.

In the period from 1893-97 the Deputy Commissioner issued several connected orders. Munshi Ilam-ud-dín, Revenue Assistant, left the district without disposing of the troublesome work, but Lála Bishamber Diál, his successor, eventually prepared three English registers for the whole district, showing (1) Properties classed as *nazúl*; (2) Properties which should apparently be

classed as *nazúl;* (3) Properties classed as *nazúl* but concerning which there is dispute.

To have got so far was an advance, but a reference to the Commissioner was needed. This was made in January 1898. That officer recorded orders under which a good many properties could be struck off the lists, but directed further enquiry in a good many cases. The time when the lists may be considered acceptable and complete has not, therefore, yet (April 1898) arrived.

CHAPTER XXXIX.

Ferries and Boat-bridge.

The ferries of consequence are the Jumna aud Sutlej ferries.

On the Jumna, there is the Rájghát ferry alternating with a boat-bridge.

On the Sutlej there are the following ferries :—

(1) Serai.
(2) Awankot.
(3) Miáni.
(4) Rúpar.
(5) Muláua.
(6) Chahlán.

Nos. 1 and 2, 3 and 4, and 5 and 6 are generally leased together.

The Serai ferry plies just below the Hoshiárpur border, not far from Kerithpur, at the extreme north of the Rúpar tahsíl; the Awankot one lower down at the village of that name ; the Miáni one at a point between the *ábádís* of Chak Dhera and Miani ; the Rúpar one immediately below the canal dam, and the Mulána and Chahlan ferries ply at two points between the Rúpar ferry and the Ludhiána border. The points are marked in the Punjab Survey sheet. The sites of the ferries have shifted owing to river changes. The Mulána ferry is named after the village of that name ; the origin of the name of the Chahlan ferry is not so clear.

The ferries are managed by the District Board on the Provincial contract system. Figures collated in the Local Funds Office (see general file regarding ferries) show that in the period of five years from 1890-91 to 1894-95 there was the following aggregate loss over the contract with Government :—

	Rs.
Rúpar-Miáni ferries	6,194
Awánkot and Serai ferries	678
Mulána and Chahlan ferries	3,062

The probable effect of the opening of the Sirhind Canal in 1882 was not considered when the terms of a first contract were fixed in 1885, the average income for a period of previous years being taken, before the effect on auction bids of the stoppage of waters became marked. The canal had eventually great effect on the

incomes of the Rúpar, Mulána, and Chahlan ferries. Consequently the District Board suffered a dead loss over the contracts.

The same loss eventually accrued in connection with the Rájghát ferry and boat-bridge. The same period of five years (1890-95) shows a deficit over this contract of Rs. 2,693. The lease of this crossing used to yield good enough returns at one time; but the opening of the Indri-Sirsa Branch of the Western Jumna Canal, in 1891, followed by dry seasons later completely ruined the chances of a good lease. The crossing used to be leased for a sum in four figures. It has in 1896, 1897, and 1898 been leased for sums like Rs. 300 or 250, and there is great difficulty in getting a contractor. The cause of this breakdown is said to be the dry state of the river caused by the increased supply run down the Western Jumna Canal in order to fill the Indri-Sirsa Branch.

But the management of this crossing has always given a great deal of trouble. It is the connecting link on the direct road from Umballa to Sahámnpur and a point of strategic importance. Moreover, this road is a troop road. Thus a boat-bridge has always been maintained. A bond in a form approved many years ago is taken from the contractor. He binds himself to build and maintain a bridge of boats (24) from the 15th October to the 15th June, and to keep a ferry plying for the rest of the year. He binds himself to always keep 24 boats available at the crossing, or as many more as may be necessary. This arrangement would be simple, perhaps, if the lessee were himself the owner of 24 boats, but the boats have invariably been the property of various *mallahs*, the lessee being a middle man. Thus he has a sub-contract with the boat-owners. It has never been found possible for the District Board to contract with the boat-owners direct. The arrangement has constantly proved unsatisfactory. When receipts decline the lessee omits to pay the boatmen full hire, and they strike. He has often small control over them, and when the bridge is taken up, the boats instead of being kept available at the crossing are taken off to ply for hire elsewhere. In 1892 the then Deputy Commissioner, disgusted by a breakdown of engagements, ran the bridge and ferry *amáni*, but incurred a large deficit.

For 1898-99 the lease has been given to a contractor resident in Umballa city at a very low figure, all local men having either proved failures or refused to bid.

The affairs of this crossing need to be arranged on some sound basis, but it is difficult to arrive at this when a lot of different boat-owners have to be dealt with.

It is doubtful, however, whether the condition that 24 boats should be always kept available at the crossing is now needed. If the number were reduced, perhaps a local man could be found to work the contract successfully. The present state of affairs is anything but satisfactory.

The financial working of the ferry contract in this district compares very unfavourably with the results in Karnál, where a profit of Rs. 7,800 was secured in 1894-95. Attention was drawn to this by the Commissioner in his No. 283, dated 9th August 1895; but it must be remembered that Punjab rivers though they may show dry beds beneath a canal dam in sub-montane tracts, will show a full flow at points lower down in their course. Thus though the Jumna may be dry near Dádúpur, it may be running fairly strong near Karnál.

A fresh Provincial contract was arranged for six years with effect from 1896-97. Attention was then drawn to the losses over ferries. But while it loses over ferries the District Board gains over pounds, and this had to be considered.

It may be noticed here that the District Board lost heavily over "Station Roads" in the civil lines, which were transferred for management on the inadequate maintenance grant of Rs. 1,000 per annum. There was correspondence about this contract in 1897 with the eventual result that Rs. 1,800 as maintenance grant were allowed. This is none too large a figure. It was calculated that from the time of taking the roads over, the District Board had spent some Rs. 30,000 over and above the maintenance grant. All the sections of road this money was spent on, however, though in the civil lines, they lay could not be classed as "station roads;" sections which are part of through lines of communication not coming into this category.

CHAPTER XL.

Octroi System, Umballa Municipality.

The octroi system of the Umballa Municipality had no very close attention directed to it till about 1896, when some remarks were made about it in the Provincial Review of Municipal Administration for 1895-96. The Deputy Commissioner was directed to report on the "loose *nisháni* system" which had been stated to be in force. Letter No. 95, dated 30th March 1897, to the Commissioner, deals with the subject; and in the Local Funds Office will be found a book file containing a plan of the city showing the disposition of the octroi posts and police posts, together with a table showing the strength of the octroi staff.

It was found that no bye-laws regulating the collection of octroi existed. No money was taken at the gates but only *nishánís;* importers being giving *cháláns* showing the amounts of octroi due which they were expected to pay in, after presenting the *chálans* at the Octroi Office in the "Mandi."

Apparently the *nishánís* were often so insignificant that often importers did not trouble themselves to reclaim them, and no penalties were incurred if an importer failed to go to the Octori Office with his *chálán*. Any number of *cháláns* thus remained unadjusted, and owing to the numerous payments thus evaded the octroi income was at a low ebb.

In April 1897 orders were issued requiring the taking of substantial *nishánís*, and arrangements were made for these being returned at the Sadr Office, when importers paid in the actual dues. Moreover, the Octroi Dárogha was required to go round the town, beating up importers who left *cháláns* unadjusted, and reporting defaulters for prosecution.

Meanwhile the Committee received orders to consider an appropriate set of bye-laws; and a system of payment of octroi at the gates was recommended for adoption.

The Committee was doubtful about trusting the Gate Muharrirs to receive cash, but it was pointed out that the Muharrirs could, if so disposed, cheat over the entries in *chálans,* under the existing system. After considerable consideration the Committee resolved to arrange for cash receipts at the gates, and this system came into force towards the end of the year 1897, and has been working satisfactorily.

Importers now pay octroi as their goods pass through the gates, and the Octroi Dárogha collects the takings of the

Gate Muharrirs every evening, the collections being deposited with one of the members of the Municipality pending credit into the treasury next day.

There has also been correspondence with the Railway authorities for the appointment of a special clerk at the City Railway Station to check the imports into the city. Such a clerk is employed at the Cantonments Railway Station in the interests of the Cantonment Committee.

Octroi receipts in the Umballa Municipality may now be expected to increase. The system has been improved, though room for improvement remains. There are only 10-maund weighing stands, for instance, at the gates; and the appraisement of loads coming in must be extremely rough. Still in comparison with what has been tolerated in the past, and with the arrangements tolerated in other municipalities in the district, the system now in force is fairly satisfactory.

The bye -laws of the new system were sanctioned and published in *Punjab Gazette* Notification No. 527 of the 27th October 1897 (Committees Department).

In Jagádhri the *nisháni* system still obtains. In this municipality and in Sadhaura and others the octroi system could with advantage be re-arranged by an officer able to spare the time needed for the revision. The receipts at Sadhaura are particularly insufficient. Evasion of dues must be extremely common.

CHAPTER XLI.

GRASS FOR MOUNTED CORPS.

The Bengal Cavalry Regiment stationed at Umballa depends like most Bengal Cavalry Regiments on grass gleaned from the country side. The grass farms in cantonments embrace a very considerable area, and quantities of hay are stacked every year. But this hay is allotted to other mounted corps: and equally the Bengal Cavalry grass-cutters have, of course, no excess to the grass farm lands. The area under grass in cantonments could be increased if some areas were not leased for cultivation. But these leases yield a good return to the Cantonment Committee, and are not likely to be discontinued.

As to the Bengal Cavalry, there have been in time of drought occasional collisions between the gangs of grass-cutters and villagers. Nothing very serions has ever happened, nor are the relations between the grass-cutters and villagers anything like so strained as in places like Mooltan. But complaints by villages suffering from repeated visits by large troops of grass-cutters have sometimes been put in; and on one occasion there was a *melee* ending in the grass-cutters losing a lot of their kit, and some of their mules being brought in and pounded at the sadr. One way of avoiding such incidents is for grass-cutters to be sent out in small parties only.

To give the Bengal Cavalry scope for a grass supply free of village limits, user of the Grand Trunk Road from Umballa down towards Shahabad was conceded by the Public Works Department. There is a file on this subject in the Local Funds Office. The user extended to the cutting and stacking of hay, not to the digging of grass. Such a practice is likely to injure berms of a road.

The Financial Commissioner when on tour down the Grand Trunk Road was petitioned by road-side villages concerning this user. Complaints were made that the regimental guards worried cattle owners, impounding their cattle without reason, and so on. There was a deal of correspondence on the subject, and finally, in 1895, the Lieutenant-Governor allowed the system of user to continue in favour of the 17th Bengal Cavalry for such time as it should be at Umballa.

Consideration of this subject of preserving grass on main roads is of old standing. One Lieutenant-Governor recorded an opinion that zamíndárs were too much worried and inconvenienced

by them for systems of preservation to be politic, and that they regarded the grazing as a prescriptive right. This was an opinion however of many years ago. In the present day, if villagers are apt to collide with grass-cutters gleaning grass from the village waste, it seems logical for Government to protect roadsides and other spaces available for regimental supplies. *Primâ faciê*, Government has more title to grass on roadsides than grass on village lands, unless the latter is available for regimental purposes by customary law.

In any case the user of the Grand Trunk Road raised no more complaints after close personal attention was given to the matter by the Officer Commanding the 17th Bengal Cavalry. The lambardars and zaildárs were also given to understand by the Deputy Commissioner that there should be no wilful trespass. Similarly the guards of the regiment were warned against levying blackmail and interfering with cattle merely crossing the road.

The grass on the road was fairly well preserved and the regiment reaped considerable quantities of hay. The watch kept must have been good as no kind of special pound was sanctioned.

This question of roadside user is likely to arise again in connection with succeeding Bengal Cavalry Regiments.

CHAPTER XLII.

Route Marches and Supplies for Troops.

There is in the English Office (scale 8 miles to the inch) a recent map of all routes and encamping-grounds in the Sirhind Command.

Interspersed as the Cis-Sutlej tract is with large and small areas of foreign territory, many of the encamping-grounds lie in Patiála or other States. For the collection of supplies at certain stages so situated the Deputy Commissioner of Umballa acts as intermediary.

The stages between Umballa cantonments and Ludhiána are Moghal-ki-Serai, Ughana, Bara, Khanna-ki-Serai, and Doráha. The three first named are in Patiála, and indents for supplies thereat are sent by Officers Commanding to the Deputy Commissioner, Umballa. The Deputy Commissioner of Ludhiána receives the indents for the two stages last named. These indents are passed on to the Patiála Vakíl for disposal in direct communication with the Patiála Tahsíldárs.

Similarly on the Kálka road the Lálru encamping-ground is in Patiála, and indents in connection come to the Deputy Commissioner's Office.

These two routes give most business in connection with supplies, either in connection with annual relief, or the move of troops to and from the hill cantonments.

The supplies at the Patiála camps are always promptly collected. There are on the other hand occasional complaints made by the Vakíl of short payments or losses. For the cleanliness of these camps and their wells it is hard to see how the Deputy Commissioner of Umballa can be in any way responsible. He can only pass on instructions for cleaning up.

The wells at Mobárikpur and Chandigarh have given continual trouble. A new well was eventually sunk at Chandigarh about 1895. A Military Committee sat on the Mobárikpur well recently. Possibly a new well will be sunk. At present a well outside the encamping-ground and across the railway line is preferred. It was believed that the mortality amongst "The Black Watch" at Subáthu in 1896 could be traced to the camp well here. A line of march so constantly used as the Kálka road might very well be in charge of a Military Works Department. The cleansing of wells could then be arranged for as desired, instead of its being in the hands of Tahsíldárs or Tahsíl Mistrís.

The supplies for troops at the camping-ground in Umballa Cantonments are arranged for by the Cantonment Magistrate. Indents are passed on to him when officers commanding do not sent them direct.

The line of march from Sahâranpur through Jagádhri, Chappar, Adhoa, and Shahabad, to Umballa, is occasionally used. Troops do not now march straight in through Muláua, but strike off to Shahabad. (It is inconvenient for Commanding Officers, when indenting, that Shahabad should now be in Karnál). There is no difficulty about the collection of supplies at any of these stages. (Difficulties connected with the boat-bridge at Rájghát have been mentioned in another article).

Nor are there difficulties about supplies at Mubárikpur and Chandigarh, the villages being sufficiently large.

Standing orders for Tahsíldárs to follow in passing regiments and detachments through their tahsíls have been drawn up. Printed copies should be kept hung up in all tahsíls. By deputing jamádars to accompany troops on the march instead of going themselves, or sending their Náibs, Tahsíldárs allow disputes about supplies to occur which can never afterwards be satisfactorily settled.

CHAPTER XLIII.

Candidates for Employment.

A word may be said about candidates for employment.

For a long period previous to 1896 a general list of candidates was current, in which names could be inserted without limit, and on which it was the aim of place-hunters and relations of officials to get their names.

The names on the list in 1896 numbered 70 or 80. Small attention was given to gradation, and when a place fell vacant, every man on the list thought himself entitled to apply for it. Applications for names to be entered on the list constantly came in, and hurried officers allowed them, without much attention, to be put in along with the rest.

At the close of 1896 all persons on the list were called in by notice. Each man who attended was given a hearing, and some idea of his suitability for or claim to office was arrived at. Many names were struck off, and two revised lists were formed : (1) the Government list, and (2) the miscellaneous list. It was ordered that the number of names on the first list should be limited to 24, and in the case of the second to 12, no fresh names being added to the lists until vacancies occurred owing to appointments.

There is more than one object served by keeping the lists carefully limited.

In the first place miscellaneous applications for employment can be rejected with the mere remark that there are no vacancies on the lists of candidates, and in the second place the accepted candidates are sure of their footing. This is an important point; as they can then be relied upon to work steadily as apprentices. This is a condition of their admission to the list. On the other hand they have a recognised claim to appointment to vacant posts ; appointments being given as far as possible according to gradation.

The men on the miscellaneous list are those who are registered as candidates for employment under the District Board, &c., as distinct from candidates for pensionable posts under Government.. Prefaces in the registers show the distinctions between the lists and how candidates should be selected.

A special section was added to the Government list for the entry of candidates with special claims and qualifications entitling them to consideration above ordinary candidates, the object being to give special preference to men who would be valuable acquisitions in an office.